

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 7, 1987

Published Since 1877



Southern Baptist missionaries Jim and Leola Ragland, shown here in a 1984 picture at the Beirut Baptist School, had less than a day's notice from U.S. officials to leave the school where they worked more than 30 years. (BP) PHOTO By Don Rutledge

## Night of terror/“Whispering Hope”

By Art Toalston

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP) — During a three-year period when 14 American men were kidnapped and scores of others cleared out of West Beirut to avoid the same fate. Jim and Leola Ragland remained.

Ragland and his wife, Leola, don't talk in heroic terms about staying so long in a battle zone.

They took what precautions they could, the Southern Baptist missionaries say. Otherwise, they clung to God's grace for the ability to persevere.

They went to Lebanon 33 years ago to start Beirut Baptist School. Today, 950 students, 80 percent of them Muslim, attend kindergarten through the 12th grade. From the outset, enrollment was open to students of all faiths.

When Muslim forces wrested control of West Beirut from the Lebanese government in 1984, the area where the school is located came under the control of Druse Muslim militiamen who stood guard at every nearby intersection. The Raglands had had friendly relations with Druse neighbors for years, and several militia leaders had their children in the school.

The Raglands moved from West Beirut to the east side in late January this year only after the U.S. government ordered all Americans out of Lebanon. A team of Lebanese teachers has replaced Ragland as superintendent and Mrs. Ragland as preschool director. The couple left the country in early March and now has

relocated temporarily in Cyprus.

Although the missionaries were in Druse-controlled territory, each day came with the ominous possibility that Shiite Muslim radicals might attempt a kidnapping.

However, a horrible incident in 1976 had prepared the Raglands for whatever toll Lebanon's strife might exact. They survived a night of terror when they were threatened with death and robbed by two thugs who invaded their home while several others waited outside. For a time, the Raglands were taken to different parts of their house, and Mrs. Ragland was told her husband had been killed. It is an incident that, until now, they have never discussed publicly.

“For the first time I really felt how people feel who have been exploited and abused,” Ragland recalls. And doubts arose: “If we love the Lord, why did it happen to us? We weren't there for glory. We weren't there for any purpose except to serve him.”

Finally Ragland came to a fresh understanding “the Lord hasn't promised that he would keep us from death or suffering or humiliation, but he has promised us his grace.”

“I cannot tell you how terribly nasty (the thugs) were,” Mrs. Ragland adds. She lost much of her eyesight after the incident and, a few weeks later, underwent cataract surgery. The doctor speculated trauma might have caused the problem.

It was hard for her to accept that, in following God's call to Lebanon,

such a terrible thing could happen.

“But as I have tried to study the Bible and pray and work through it, I found that I'm not the first one who had to suffer for Christ.” The Bible tells of many people who suffered for Christ — “and maybe they loved the Lord more than I did. And Jesus himself had to suffer.”

Their 1976 “baptism of pain,” Ragland says, was a turning point in their lives. “We didn't have the fear that we might get hurt. We had already been hurt. (Whatever) could come, we were ready for it.”

Even so, the threat of kidnapping became “the greatest fear that I've had,” Mrs. Ragland says, “even greater than death. I just couldn't see how Jim could honor our heavenly Father (by such) suffering.” She couldn't fathom him being without food or being cold.

“I finally had to come to the place where I surrendered Jim to the Lord and said, ‘Lord, we're willing to even meet this, if this is our lot.’”

“We hear some people speaking about how God has spared them from danger and from hurt, from death, from the loss of material possessions,” Ragland says. “It hasn't been that way with us. We wonder, ‘These people, they love Christ and testify to his goodness and mercy, and we haven't had it quite that easy.’”

Ragland doesn't have an easy answer. But in his heart and his wife's, “We have found his grace to be so wonderful.” Mrs. Ragland notes:

## Interstate gambling ad prohibitions defended

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — The head of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission urged a House subcommittee to reject proposed legislation that would loosen federal restrictions on advertisement of various forms of gambling.

CLC Executive Director Larry Baker, testified April 2 before the House Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations on the proposed Lottery Advertising Clarification Act of 1987 (H.R. 1568). The bill — sponsored by subcommittee chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass. — would amend federal law to allow additional advertising of state-operated lotteries, casinos, and charitable gambling.

“The most troublesome part of this legislation is its removal of interstate advertising prohibitions,” Baker testified. “The argument that the federal government should not be concerned about regulation fails to acknowledge the possible entanglements which would result if gambling activities in one state could legally advertise their activities in other states which do not have legalized gambling.”

Baker said present federal law provides the best assurance of neutrality since it strikes a balance between allowing states that want legalized gambling to have it and providing

states that do not want it the opportunity to avoid the consequences associated with legalized gambling. Interstate advertising of legal gambling operations also could influence laws in other states, he added.

“Advertising for state-operated lotteries could become a powerful force for changing the laws of other states,” he testified. “This advertising, conducted by an agency of one state, would become a form of government-subsidized propaganda in another state. The neutrality required by present law better serves the interest of state self-determination.”

Baker described casino advertising as “even more troublesome.” Noting state after state has refused to legalize such gambling, he said, “Some of the consequences of casino gambling can cut across state lines and contribute to problem concerns for other states.”

In concluding his testimony, Baker pointed to a resolution adopted during the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta. The resolution voiced opposition to legislation that would eliminate lottery advertising restrictions.

Baker — who was accompanied by Larry Braidfoot, CLC general counsel — was the only witness to testify in opposition to the legislation.

Kathy Palen writes for the BP Washington bureau.

this. I just felt there was no other place to serve on the mission field except Lebanon and there was no place in the States we knew of where a door was open.” So, “by elimination,” he decided Beirut was where he should be.

In his Bible class, Ragland sensed five 12th-grade boys were distancing themselves from him simply because he's an American. The Raglands prayed for wisdom and guidance and kept loving the boys and praying for them, he says.

Toward the end of school, these boys opened up, and harmonious relationships returned.

The small Baptist church where the Raglands are members almost suffered a split last year. “The people turned to us (and asked), ‘What should we do?’” Ragland says. “I was glad we could be there.”

“There might be a battle going on half a mile away, tanks blasting away and all that, and we'd be having school,” he notes. “People want education so badly that they'll send their kids even in a situation like that.” The 1986-87 school year also had been progressing well, he says. The school closed only when there was trouble in the immediate vicinity or in an area where many of the students live.

Safety considerations kept the Raglands near their house on the school grounds. Even so, Mrs. Ragland says: “Our neighbors were wonderful. Lebanese love to visit. We were never without company.”

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.

# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## A mother's influence

My mother passed away in 1979, but the approach of Mother's Day brings back memories. Though it was not recognized at the time, surely there was a great deal of quiet influence during the years I was growing up at home.

When I was growing up, however, I didn't realize the amount of influence that was being administered nor its effect. Of course, we seldom realize the effect of such influences until a time of retrospection is possible.

It was a pastor's home, so things were tough at best. There wasn't much money in an area of relative affluence in the latter stages of the depression. And the pastor's son was the object of the attention of the community. Also, there were no brothers nor sisters, it was usually a rural setting, so there was some amount of loneliness.

Be all of that as it may, it was a home of contentment; and the influence surely was there.

It didn't always take. For instance,

I had an uncle who was graduated from Baylor magna cum laude with a degree in journalism. He wound up as caretaker of the lawn at the post office until the second world war came along, and he joined the Navy. The time for me to go to college, however, came just before the war started. My mother asked me what I wanted to be. I replied that I had considered journalism. She allowed herself one of her rare explosions and said, "Oh, no. You can't do that. Look what happened to your uncle."

So I went to college without a shred of a notion as to what I thought I could accomplish in life. The war came along and forced me to think, and after it was over I took a course in radio news writing because that was all that was left when I got there. I wound up being a journalist.

So much for that.

The uncle, by the way, put his pre-war civil service record together with his Navy experience and became a self-appointed missionary to Hawaii.

Though he is dead now, he still is remembered fondly in the islands. To make a living he did the same thing on a civil service basis that he had done in the Navy.

But back to my mother. After the war my father became an associational director of missions, and she became the finest assistant director that you would ever see.

And all along her influence on her acquaintances, her immediate family, and her grandchildren was tremendous. It still is.

So this is the time to bring back a few memories and pay tribute to one who has a profound effect on my life. It should be a time also that our readers and others would pause to be appreciative of influence for good and to pay tribute to the one who wielded that influence.

Mother's Day is Sunday. Such appreciation should not be limited to a day, but it does provide a starting point.



## Guest opinion . . .

### "Our daughter was our crop"

By Jessie Smith Graham

Note: This article was written last fall. Jessie Smith Graham, of Coldwater, Miss., is now in a nursing home near her daughter's home in Kentucky. Her address there is Medco Center, 120 East Grundy, Springfield, KY 40069.

Melva Graham, a graduate of Blue Mountain College, is married to Jeff Clark, who was recently ordained to the ministry. They are both students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. and are members of the New Salem Baptist Church, Cox's Creek, Ky. Melva is president of the Mississippi Club at the seminary and was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for this year. Also she was selected among religious education students at the seminary to receive an award given by the SBC Religious Education Association. Last summer she and her husband did volunteer mission work in Kenya.

"Now the Lord had said unto Abram: get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing" (Genesis 12:1-2).

Abram went out not knowing whither he went. This is the way my life has been. I have gone out many times not knowing whither I went. I have not known at times what the future held. But I have always known

who held the future.

When I was a child, our family rode to Palmer Baptist Church, Ripley, Miss. Mother and Dad rode on the rumble seat, and we nine children sat on the floor of the wagon. I loved to sit on the back of the wagon and drag one of my feet on the ground. We had Sunday School every Sunday, but we only had a preaching service once a month. Mother always packed an abundant lunch.

When I was six, my public school teacher taught us the song, "Into My Heart." Then she explained what it meant to let Jesus come into our hearts. She also told us that Jesus was standing at our heart's door, knocking; but we had to invite him in. From that moment on, I was under conviction until the age of 13, when I was saved. Most times I would have my foot out in the aisle, wanting to go forward in response to the invitation hymn. I was baptized and became a member of Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church at Blue Mountain.

I attended college at Blue Mountain. While I was a student there, I dedicated my life to the Lord for full-time Christian service. After graduating, I enrolled at Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville, Ky., to prepare to be a missionary to Nigeria. While a student at Carver School, I was advised to forget about going to Nigeria because I had a bad back condition. It was hard to

know close friends had been appointed.

After graduating from Carver School, I went as a state missionary to Magoffin Baptist Institute in the Appalachian Mountains. I boarded at the school during the regular sessions and taught VBS in one-room school houses in the summer. After I spent two years there, my medical doctor at Louisville, Dr. Samuel Anderson, had my thyroid tested. I only had 1/3 the amount of thyroid I was supposed to have in my body. He suggested I leave the school and get near a good doctor.

So I returned to Mississippi. I lived in the home of my parents and rode back and forth to Chalybeate, some 30 miles away, to teach English courses to juniors and seniors.

Then I obtained a position with the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn. I worked there two years. I also obtained an M.A. degree from Peabody College.

Next the Lord led me to the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga. Truly my working at both of these Christian agencies was a blessing in my life.

I came home again and for two years taught business at Blue Mountain High School and lived with my parents. While teaching there, I dated a dedicated Christian man, an older man named Max Burford Graham. We were married, and I lived with my husband at Independence, Miss. The Lord blessed our marriage with a

## Good out of chaos

There is a possibility that some good may come out of the situation involving Jim Bakker and Jerry Falwell.

For years a great deal of Southern Baptist money has been going into those operations. People have stayed home from worship services and have provided money for the TV evangelists as a means of salvaging their own consciences.

Very likely the same has been true in other denominations as well.

Perhaps those folks who have stayed at home on Sundays and watched the TV evangelists and have somehow felt that they were discharging their obligations to pay attention to the Lord and to worship him will come to the conclusion that they can take care of those matters better in the company of others of like mind and decide to be present in worship services.

Money, of course, is not the only thing there is in worship experiences; but it is important. And perhaps those folks will come to the conclusion that their money can be put to better use in witnessing to the world if it is channeled through their church treasuries.

If this is done, the world-wide missions operations of all denominations will be better off; and the people who made the switch should feel better for having put both their energies and their money into efforts and are more productive.

In the final analysis, however, perhaps we should heed the advice of Gamaliel as found in Acts 5:38 and 39. He said, "... if this council or this work be of men, it will come to naught; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found to fight against God."

precious baby girl, Melva. (I was 32 and Max was 47. I was an old maid, and Max was an old bachelor!) We had a lot of adjusting to do; but, with the Lord's help, we lived happily together for 23 1/2 years. Max had felt called to be a minister and I felt called to be a foreign missionary. Because of poor health, we were neither able to achieve those goals. (He died in 1986.)

The Lord continued to bless our marriage. Many times Max would say to me, "Honey, I wish I could farm hundreds of acres like my brother, Lester!" I told him it was not his fault that because of ill health, he could only farm 10 acres. By doing this, he got lots of exercise and sunshine. I encouraged him to farm even though he

lost quite a lot of money each year. It kept him happy, and he was satisfied. Farming the 10 acres gave him something to discuss with other farmers. I told him Melva was our crop. She was such a joy to both of us.

For the next 10 years, I taught at Hernando High School. The Lord continued to bless our rearing of Melva. She was saved at the age of five — on Valentine's Day, just two weeks before her sixth birthday. She began piano lessons at the age of seven. I taught a 10-weeks summer term at Hernando High School; and with the money I earned, I bought Melva a reconditioned upright piano and began her piano lessons. Four dollars a week was hard to scrape up at times; but,

(Continued on page 10)

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 111 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 13  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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# Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union

## Annual Meeting

June 14-15, 1987

Clarion Hotel, St. Louis  
THEME: "Celebrate"

Sunday Afternoon, June 14, 1987

1:45 — Pre-session Music — Betty Jean Chatham, concert artist, Shelbyville, Ky., pianist; Emily Chatham, musical performer, Charlotte, N.C., violinist

2:00 — Celebrate: Study God's Word — Opening Meditation: Celebrate — The First Eyewitness, Mary Magdalene — Laurita Mullins Miller, actress, Vandalia, Ill.; "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses" (Acts 2:32 KJV)\*

— Call to Order — Marjorie J. McCullough, WMU national president, Alexandria, La.

— Hymns: "Joy to the World" "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

— Prayer

— Bible Study: Celebrate — The Resurrection — Dorothy Elliott Sample, WMU past-president, Flint, Mich.; "And if Christ has not been raised . . . your faith also is in vain" (1 Cor. 15:14 NAS)

— Special Music — Malvie Giles, soloist, Magnolia, Ark.

— Our Session in Focus: I Remember Studying God's Word — Marjorie McCullough

— Hymn: "Send Forth the Word"

— Cause for Celebration: WMU Annual Report — Part I; National Acteens Panel — Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive director, Birmingham, Ala.

— Celebrate with an Offering — Thank Offering

— Missions Talk Time: Celebrate — Living Witnesses; Going Everywhere Teaching the Word; "Go . . . make disciples . . . baptize . . . teach" (Matt. 28:19-20 KJV); Interviewer — Suzanne Moss McMahon, television reporter, Dallas; Missionary participants — Kendale Moore, Albuquerque, N.M.; Lynn Barrett, Hong Kong; Margaret Lasley, Louisville, Ky.

— Hymn: "He Lives"

— Message: Translating God's Love — Roberta Ryan, writer, Spanish Baptist Publishing House, El Paso

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Senior Adult Convention

Hilda Sommers, West Laurel Church, Laurel, talks with her two-year-old grandson, Daniel Sommers of Hurst, Texas, outside the Tarrant County Convention Center during the first Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention Center. (BSSB photo by Jim Veneman) Story and pix on page 10.

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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## Rogers appoints groups to serve convention

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Four committees to serve during the 1987 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention have been appointed by SBC President Adrian P. Rogers of Memphis, Tenn.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, announced his nominations to the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee April 30, in keeping with SBC bylaws requiring the president to release the appointments to Baptist Press, the denominational news service, "no later than 45 days in advance of the annual meeting" scheduled June 16-18 in St. Louis.

The president also released the appointments to the Credentials and Tellers Committees, although he is not required by bylaw to do so.

"I think these are great people," Rogers told Baptist Press. "I think they are good, solid Southern Baptists who have good records of cooperation and longevity and have not been highly identified, by and large, with any overt political activity."

"I am particularly pleased that of the 122 appointments, the average pastoral tenure in the respective churches is 11 years. Also, the average of all Cooperative Program percentages of the churches represented is more than 12 percent. I believe this clearly indicates that these appointments represent long-standing Southern Baptists and that the respective churches are solidly involved in the Cooperative Program of this convention," he added.

Last year, Rogers pledged to appoint the "very best Baptists" to the convention committees and said he "did not intend to make appointments that are overtly political."

He did, however, say the section on Scripture in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963 was central to the appointments.

"I did not appoint anybody who did not subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement on Scripture," he said. "I am trying to adhere to our standard, which I think the SBC president ought to do. I have said before I would not appoint anyone who does not subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message, and, in particular, the article on Scripture."

That section says the Bible has "truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter."

"We didn't doctrinally interrogate anybody," he said. "We just kind of figured their stance out by their reputation. I don't believe we had a doctrinal statement on the questionnaire we filled out on everybody. We

did not ask about their (doctrinal) position, but we did have a place where the person making the recommendation could supply other pertinent information."

Rogers said he "met from time to time" with the two vice presidents — Jack Stanton, first vice president from Bolivar, Mo., and Ray Roberts, second vice president from Asheville, N.C.

Under the bylaws, the SBC presi-

dent is required to appoint the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee "in conference with" the vice presidents. He appoints the Credentials Committee "in consultation with" the vice presidents and the Tellers Committee "in consultation with" the registration secretary.

"I asked them to submit any names they wished to submit and from that list tried to analyze and distill. I gave (Continued on page 6)

## Four state ACTS network affiliates nominated

By Ken Camp

Four Mississippi affiliates of the American Christian Television System have been nominated for special honors at the second annual ACTS Awards, May 8 in Fort Worth.

ACTS of Jackson has been nominated for six awards: best promotional spot for "Super Tuesdays," best seasonal special for "Carols by Candlelight," best community event program for "Ole Miss Football," best human interest program for "Athletes Alive," a promotion award, and cable affiliate of the year.

ACTS of Hattiesburg is nominated

for five awards: best spot of the year for "Friends of Cable 6," best community event program for "Run for World Hunger," best program of the year for "Pediatric Kids," a promotion award, and cable affiliate of the year.

The Delta ACTS Board of Cleveland is nominated for three awards: best musical program for "One Heart, One Spirit, One Song," best human interest program for "Cleveland Centennial Highlights," and an award for community service by a cable affiliate.

Nominees were selected from 261

(Continued on page 10)

## John Alexander to retire from Board on June 30

John Alexander, director of the Department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will retire at the end of June. He will be 65 on June 29.

Alexander began his work with the convention board in 1959 when he worked for the Sunday School Department. He joined the Stewardship department in 1964.

Earlier, Alexander was pastor of First Church, Brookhaven. He also served churches in Buena Vista, Kingsland, and Brunswick, Ga., and Greer, S.C.

A native of Anderson, S.C., Alexander attended Furman University, is a graduate of Mississippi College, and earned the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Alexander has conducted Stewardship campaigns in four African nations, in Hawaii, and in the European Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Alexander is the former Mary

Helen Vickery of Anderson. They have two grown children: John Verner of Tucson, and Bobby Joe of Jackson; and two grandchildren.



John Alexander

# Executive Committee, HMB, FMB, Annuity nominees announced

NASHVILLE (BP) — Persons to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and the four boards — Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Baptist Sunday School Board and Annuity Board — have been nominated by the SBC Committee on Boards.

Nominees are clergy or denominationally related, unless specified.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (70 members):** 19 nominations considered, 10 new members, 9 renominations.

New members with terms to expire in 1991, replacing persons ineligible for reappointment include Fred H. Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill church, Mobile, Ala., replacing Dotson M. Nelson Jr., of Birmingham; William K. Hall, a financial consultant and member of Capistrano Valley church, San Juan Capistrano, Calif., replacing David C. Maddox of Anaheim; William R. Parker, pastor of First church of Markham Woods, Lake Mary, Fla., replacing J. Leland Hall of Melbourne.

Newton C. Brill, an attorney and member of First church, West Plains, Mo., replacing Gary C. Brown of Richland; and James T. Roach, an attorney and member of First church, Albuquerque, N.M., replacing Francis L. Wilson of Alamagordo;

Eldridge L. Miller, pastor of First Church, Sallisaw, Okla., was named to a term to expire in 1991, replacing Jere A. Wilson of Bartlesville, who moved. Mrs. Tom (Gwyn) Parker Sr., a homemaker and member of Hyde Park church, Austin, Texas, was named to a term to expire in 1991, replacing W. Dewey Presley of Dallas, Texas, who resigned.

Paul R. House, professor of Bible at Taylor University and member of Sunnycrest church, Marion, Ind., was named to a term to expire in 1989, replacing Donald I. Gent of Evansville, who moved.

The subcommittee will name a person to fill the unexpired term — to expire in 1990 — of Alan E. Sears of Louisville, Ky., who moved. Also to be named later is a replacement for Gary F. Young, of Phoenix, Ariz., who declined to serve a second full term.

Nominated to second four-year terms are Frank Lady, Jonesboro, Ark.; William H. Ricketts, Athens, Ga.; James E. Jones, Campbellsville, Ky.; Mrs. C. Bullard Jones, Baton Rouge, La.; Robert J. Goode, Greensboro, N.C.; Sam W. Pace, Lawton, Okla.; Carl E. Compton, Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Charles W. Sullivan, Lenoir, City, Tenn.; and Paul Pressler, Houston, Texas.

**FOREIGN MISSION BOARD (85 members):** 22 nominations considered, 12 new members, 10 renominations.

New members with terms to expire in 1991, replacing people ineligible for

renomination include Bruce A. Romoser, pastor of Berwin church, College Park, Md., replacing Mrs. Mary Maddry Strauss of Hagerstown; L. Daniel Watts Jr., pastor of Raymond Road church, Jackson, Miss., replacing Gene Triggs of Yazoo City; James Michael Goodwin, pastor of Faith church, Festus, Mo., replacing Robert E. Lively of Columbia;

Horace W. Hall Sr., pastor of Freedom church, Wilmington, N.C., replacing J. Albert Leath Jr., of Charlotte; Gary A. Smith, pastor of Emmanuel church, Enid, Okla., replacing Paul Box of Moore; Bruce Alan Russell Sr., pastor of Charleston Heights church, Charleston, S.C., replacing Alastair C. Walker of Spartanburg; David L. Stevens Jr., pastor of Zion church, Powell, Tenn., replacing R. Trevis Otey of Jackson; and B.G. (Bob) Clements, a full-time evangelist and member of Bannockburn church, Austin, Texas, replacing Sam S. Sorrell of Houston.

Named to a term to expire in 1988 is Rod H. Masteller, pastor of Putnam City church of Oklahoma City, replacing Wendell Estep, of Oklahoma City, who moved.

Two people will be nominated when the subcommittee meets in St. Louis, both to full four-year terms expiring in 1991. Replacements will be named for James B. Henry of Orlando, Fla., who is ineligible for reappointment, and for William M. Rowlett of Hopkinsville, Ky., who declined another appointment.

Nominated to second terms are Dick Thomassian, Huntsville, Ala.; Rick Lance, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Paul R. Sanders, Little Rock, Ark.; John Jackson, Anaheim, Calif.; Hubert G. Keefer, Hillcrest Heights, Md.; Claude Kirkpatrick, Baton Rouge, La.; Dale Cain, Lubbock, Texas; and Nathaniel W. Kellum, Mechanicsville, Va.

Nominated to second four-year terms as local members are Donald H. Bowen, Alexandria, Va., and Wayne W. Poplin, Charlottesville, Va.

**HOME MISSION BOARD (85 members):** 25 nominations considered; 10 new members, 15 renominations.

New members with terms to expire in 1991, replacing people ineligible for renomination include S. Thomas (Tom) Kyzer, pastor of Old Spanish Fort church, Spanish Fort, Ala., replacing Marvin L. Prude of Birmingham, Ala.; Olan K. Wills, pastor of Springhead church, Plant City, Fla., replacing Thomas J. Draper of

Anthony B. Carson, pastor of Emmanuel church, Jenkins, Ky., replacing M.A. Winchester of Whitley City; Charles L. Chaney, assistant to the chancellor and dean of the Courts Redford School of Theology and Church Vocations, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., replacing

Thomas W. Sneed of Hannibal; Jack D. Moore, pastor of Fisherville church, Eads, Tenn., replacing H. Eugene Cotey of Murfreesboro; Elton Ikels, pastor of Salem Sayers church, Adkins, Texas, replacing William G. Perdue of San Antonio; and Earl W. Moore, a physician and member of First church, Chase City, Va., replacing Norman P. Gillum of Crozet.

Named to a term to expire in 1989 is Keith Russell, pastor of First Church, Anadarko, Okla., replacing Travis E. Wiginton of Norman, who moved.

Named to a term to expire in 1990 is Rex Holt Jr., pastor of Central church, Jonesboro, Ark., replacing Nick Garland of Hot Springs, who moved.

A replacement will be named by the subcommittee to fill the unexpired term — to expire in 1990 — of Ronald L. Burdon of Jeffersontown, Ky., who resigned.

Nominated for second four-year terms are Douglas M. Reddick, Valdosta, Ga.; Robert Lee Latham, Indianapolis; John Click, Wichita, Kans.; Austin B. Tucker, Shreveport, La.; Ronald Dale Gross, Milford, Mich.; Louie W. Odom, Brandon, Miss.; Robert H. Lacy, Hobbs, N.M.; Mrs. Richard (Ann) Frazier, Roanoke Rapids, N.C.; Mrs. Joe L. Ingram, Oklahoma City; and Gaylon B. Wiley, Angleton, Texas.

Nominated for second four-year terms as local members are Clark G. Hutchinson, Marietta, Ga.; Ronald J. Henning, Colquitt, Ga.; Lawson Lee Schroeder, Atlanta; Mrs. John (Barbara) Fain, Dunwoody, Ga.; and Ronald B. Long, Lithonia, Ga.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD (85 members):** 24 nominations considered; 12 new members, 12 renominations.

New members with terms to expire in 1991, replacing people ineligible for renomination include Al Jackson, pastor of Lakeview church, Auburn, Ala., replacing Harper Shannon of Montgomery; Gene R. Swinson, pastor of Hillcrest church, Augusta, Ga., replacing Donald L. Folsom of Tucker; Wayne L. DuBose, pastor of Summer Grove church, Shreveport, La., replacing John Macon Oswalt of Hammond; T.C. French Jr., pastor of Jefferson church, Baton Rouge, La., replacing Crawford Williams of Shreveport;

Eugene Ridley, pastor of Long Leaf church, Wilmington, N.C., replacing Alton H. McEachern, Greensboro; Larry E. Toothaker, a professor of psychology at the University of Oklahoma and member of Trinity church, Norman, Okla., replacing Mrs. Harry J. (Ruth) Ellis of Okmulgee; Mrs. Larry (Cynthia) Phillips, a pastor's wife and member of Lockeland church, Nashville, replacing Roy J. Gilleland Jr., of Nashville; and Carlos B. Scott, pastor

of First church, Pound, Va., replacing John J. Bryan of Bluefield, W.Va.

Named to a term to expire in 1991 is John W. Sager, minister of education at Meadow Heights church, Collinsville, Ill., replacing Greg Baumann of Granite City, who declined appointment to a second term.

Named to fill unexpired terms — expiring in 1990 — are Douglas Sager, pastor of Roebuck Park church, Birmingham, Ala., replacing Travis J. Tindal of Birmingham, who moved; Sam Simmonds Jr., pastor of Trinity church, Memphis, Tenn., replacing Winford L. Hendrix of Chattanooga, who moved; and Gerald M. Taylor of El Dorado, Ark., replacing Cecil E. Weller of Fort Smith, who died.

Nominated to second four-year terms are Wayne L. North, Tucson, Ariz.; Miss Janice L. Williams, Washington, D.C.; Donald M. Moore, Evansville, Ind.; Mahlon C. Morley, Belle Plaine, Kan.; Don R. Mathis, Corbin, Ky.; Floyd E. Hughes, Grand Rapids, Mich.; James L. Holly, Beaumont, Texas; Bill Tisdale, Henderson, Texas; and Mrs. Sherion H. Babb, Huntington, W.Va.

Local members nominated for second four-year terms are Roland Maddox, Memphis, Tenn.; J.B. Miller, Columbia, Tenn.; and Billie K. Friel, Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

**ANNUITY BOARD (49 members):** 19 nominations considered; 14 new members, 5 renominated.

New members with terms to expire in 1991, replacing people ineligible for renomination include Gerald H. Lord, pastor of First church, Florence, Ala., replacing Billy C. Austin of Birmingham; Mark H. Daniel, director of associational missions and member of East Verde church, Payson, Ariz., replacing Ron Hart of Tucson; Stephen B. Henderson, pastor of Scott Lake church, Lakeland, Fla., replacing Woodrow M. Pinson of Orlando;

Gene Flynn, investment and insurance broker and member of Gardenside church, Lexington, Ky., replacing Frank R. Purdy of Lexington; A.D. Foreman III, a retired shoe store owner and member of First

church, Monroe, La., replacing Willis L. Meadows of Shreveport; Arnold S. Hederman Jr., a retired newspaper publisher and member of Fellowship church of Mendenhall, Miss., replacing Louis F. Smith of Canton;

Mrs. John P. (Lauretta) Reynolds, a bank vice president and member of Velma Church, Velma, Okla., replacing Max Brattin of Shawnee; Bill Yung, vice president of marketing for an insurance firm, and member of First church, El Paso, Texas, replacing F.T. Goodson of Jacksonville, Texas; and Eugene C. Smith, a retired government employee and member of Del Ray church, Alexandria, Va., replacing Hugh D. Adams Sr. of Hampton.

Named to fill an unexpired term — expiring in 1988 — is E. Lee Wyatt, a corporate business planner and member of Gateway church, Millstadt, Ill., replacing C. Eugene Phillips of Peoria, who moved.

Named to fill unexpired terms — expiring in 1990 — are William G. Beshears, a retired Kraft, Inc., employee and member of First church, McDonough, Ga., replacing R.W. Turner of Natchez, who moved, and David C. Hall, pastor of Plainview church, Tulsa, Okla., replacing James L. Sanderson of Jenks, who moved.

Nominated to second four-year terms are James C. Ehrlich, Indianapolis; Carlin D. Pruitt, Pittsburgh, Kan., and George H. Valentine Jr., Greenville, S.C.

Nominated to a new four-year term as a local member is Terry Barber, an insurance broker and member of North Fort Worth church, Fort Worth, Texas, replacing David Robert (Bob) Floyd of Dallas.

Nominated to a new three-year term as a local member is R. Earl Allen, pastor of Rosen Heights church, Fort Worth, Texas, replacing Herbert H. Reynolds of Waco.

Nominated to second four-year terms as local members are Terry Gene Washburn, Colleyville, Texas, and Earl B. Patrick, Waco.

## Alumni luncheons in St. Louis SWBTS NOBTS

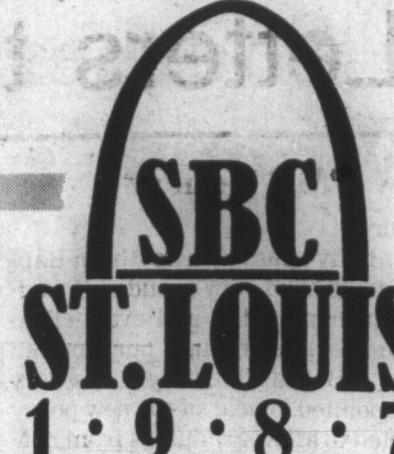
A luncheon for alumni and friends of Southwestern Seminary will take place June 17 at the Sheraton Hotel across from the convention center in downtown St. Louis.

The program will include alumni awards, testimonies, and gospel music. Tickets are \$12.50 if ordered from the school; \$15 if purchased at the booth. Write Southwestern at Box 22000, Fort Worth, Tex. 76122.

The annual "national luncheon" for alumni and friends of New Orleans Seminary will be held at 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, at the Clarion Hotel in St. Louis, Mo.

Seminary president Landrum P. Leavell II will speak at the luncheon. Joe McKeever, alumni association president, will be luncheon moderator.

Tickets are \$15 per person, \$12 if purchased by mail by June 1. For more information, contact the National Alumni Office, New Orleans Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La. 70126, or call (504) 282-4455.



# Letters to the editor

## New FMB policy

Editor:

In all my years as a Southern Baptist I have been very proud of the advances in ministry and evangelism made possible through our Foreign Mission Board. Recently I was very disappointed to hear of the new policy adopted to allow graduates from non-SBC seminaries to be considered for appointment by the SBC FMB.

This decision, I feel, is a slap in face to all of our presently appointed foreign missionaries, who have spent years of preparation in our Southern Baptist schools to prepare to be Southern Baptist missionaries. These missionaries serving throughout the world have had the forethought and have taken the initiative knowing that they felt the Lord calling them to be Southern Baptist missionaries, to attend a Southern Baptist institution to be a better and more effective Christian witness based on Southern Baptist beliefs and principles. Those who have chosen to attend non-SBC seminaries did so

knowing full well that this was a requirement of the FMB for appointment; and, ignoring this, they made their decision not to be available for appointment by the FMB.

I feel very strongly that the FMB decision should be reversed immediately. If we are going to be Southern Baptists, then let's be Southern Baptists. Yes, some may be thinking, "I am a Christian first." I could not agree more, but I am also a Christian Southern Baptist; and neither my loyalty to Christ nor my loyalty to Southern Baptists will be compromised by standing idly by, allowing outside influences to ruin the proven effectiveness of the past policies of the FMB in spreading the gospel. It is past time that loyal Christian Southern Baptists take a stand and hold fast against any effort to dilute the integrity of our worldwide witness.

Dale Little, pastor  
Springdale Church  
Attala Association

## Little gods

Editor:

In support of Timmy Haire's letter concerning the proposal that the Home Mission Board labeled in their March meeting: It proposed a policy which would prohibit the appointment of any missionary who "speaks in tongues" in private or public prayer.

Mr. Haire reminded us that the scriptures give us a direct commandment in I Cor. 14:39, "and forbid not to speak with tongues." The commandment is just plain and simple.

We are in grave danger when we start to think we are able to add to or take from God's inerrant word. Does Jesus need us to help him run his church? Man has from the very beginning wanted to be little gods. Adam and Eve started it, and we've been in trouble ever since.

Kenneth Patterson  
Parchman

## McNeill will speak, receive honors at Carey graduation

HATTIESBURG — William H. McNeill, professor of history at the University of Chicago, will be the featured speaker for commencement at William Carey College Saturday, May 9, at 3 p.m. McNeill, author of numerous books and professional articles, will also present a lecture concerning Christopher Columbus at 10 a.m. the same day on the Hattiesburg campus.

In the issue dedicated to him, McNeill was called "the foremost advocate of world history in the Anglo-American scholarly world" by the "Journal of Modern History." He has also served as editor of the Journal of Modern History.

McNeill has studied history from a global approach, including concentrations on India, China, Europe, and America. He is also a member of the National Commission for the Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of Columbus' Voyage.

He was elected president of the American Historical Association in 1985 and was formerly a George Eastman professor at Oxford University, a Charles Edmondson lecturer at Princeton University, and a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii.

McNeill will receive the honorary degree "doctor of letters" during the William Carey College commencement.

The public is invited to both the morning lecture and commencement.

Both events will take place in Smith Auditorium of the Thomas Fine Arts Building on the Hattiesburg campus. Students from the Hattiesburg campus, Carey on the Coast in Gulfport, and the Carey School of Nursing in New Orleans will participate in com-

mencement. A total of 115 undergraduates and 27 graduate students are set to graduate.

A reception for graduates and their families will be hosted by William Carey College President J. Ralph Noonkester and Mrs. Noonkester in

their home on Friday evening, May 8, from 8:30.

For more information about any of these events, contact Donna Wheeler, executive assistant to the president, at William Carey College — (601) 582-6223.



McNeill

Christopher Columbus at 10 a.m. the same day on the Hattiesburg campus.

CLINTON — William G. Tanner, executive secretary of the Oklahoma Baptist Convention and a former Mississippian, will be the commencement speaker at the Mississippi College graduation exercises set for 2 p.m. Saturday, May 16, in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on campus.

Tanner, who served pastorates in Mississippi and most recently was president of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga., will be speaking to a class composed of 470 graduates, one of whom is his daughter. Of the candidates, 342 will receive undergraduate degrees, 60 the masters degree, three the education specialist degree, and 65 the doctor of jurisprudence degree from the School of Law. Degrees will be conferred by Dr. Lewis Nobles, President of the College.

In addition, honorary doctorates will be bestowed on two denominational leaders. Miss Edwina Robinson of Jackson, retired executive secretary of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, will be given the honorary Doctor of Laws degree, while H. Edwin Young, pastor of the

Second Baptist Church in Houston, Tex., and in 1958 graduate of Mississippi College, will be presented the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Miss Robinson, a 1926 graduate of Blue Mountain College, is a native of Magee. She received the master of education degree from the WMU Training School, later incorporated into Southern Seminary. In 1968, Blue Mountain honored her with an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

She went to work with the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1933 as young people's secretary for the Mississippi WMU. It was under her leadership that camping programs for GAs, RAs, and YWAs were begun and from that grew her dream for a centrally-located site for camps and training sessions. That dream became a reality when Camp Garaywa, located on 40



Robinson

Young

Thursday, May 7, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

## Devotional

# The Life of Joy!

By Donnie Guy

Phil. 1:21

As you read through Paul's letter to the Philippians, you will come across the words such as, "rejoice, joy, and the peace of God." Yet, as you do a background study into Paul's circumstances, at the time of his writing, you become aware that he is a prisoner of Rome, where he is facing death for his testimony for Christ.

During his ministry, he has been stoned twice, beaten three times, and is now all alone, except for the brief visits he has with Timothy, his fellow servant in Christ. We can safely say that his circumstances are terrible, and yet, he is writing a letter about Christian joy.

Not one time, in this book, does he complain about his circumstances, but says in verse 1:12, that his circumstances have helped him to further the gospel. Paul took advantage of every situation to preach Jesus.

For instance, Paul had to be chained to a Roman Guard 24 hours a day, in six-hour shifts. Now, can you imagine, if you were one of those guards, being chained to someone like Paul, whose main goal in life was to tell the lost about the Saviour? I dare say, many of those guards got saved. One could easily ask, "How could this man have such a positive attitude or how could he be writing about joy in the face of such trouble?"

Well, Paul knew that his joy was not based in "a set of circumstances," but "in the state of his mind." Paul had learned to let Christ control his mind. He has more to say in Philippians about the mind than in any of the other books he had written. The key verse is 2:5, "Let this mind be in you, that was also in Christ Jesus." In four steps, let's discover what Paul learned.

First, he learned to develop a single mind. In 1:21, Paul shares, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." He is declaring that, if he is allowed to live, he is going to continue to preach for Jesus, live for Jesus and try to be like Jesus to every area of his life. This is the single mind! If he lives, he will be like Jesus, but if he dies, he will be with Jesus. One could say that Paul had a one-track mind. That is exactly right and the person with that type of mind cannot be stopped! He will sing in prison at midnight (Acts 16:25), he continues to preach the gospel even when his life is threatened (Acts 14:19-20), and he rejoices in the Lord, while he sits in a damp, cold, prison cell awaiting his death (Phil. 2:17). Such was the life of the Apostle Paul!

Can we have the same joy in our times of trouble? Yes, if we can learn to develop a Single Mind. When trouble comes, don't look at your circumstances, look to Christ, "the author and finisher of our faith." (Next week, the submissive mind.)

Donnie Guy is a Gulf Coast based evangelist.

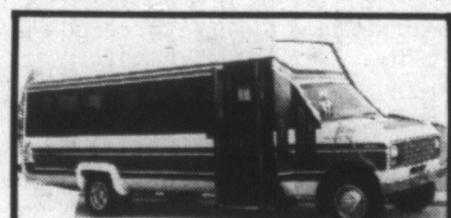
## Hardy Denham featured at Clarke

Hardy R. Denham Jr. will be guest speaker for graduation exercises to be held at Clarke College on Tuesday, May 12, at 2 p.m.



Denham has

been pastor of several churches in Texas and Mississippi and is now engaged in full time ministry of Bible Conferences, revival crusades, and marriage enrichment seminars for churches and church groups. He is married to the former Margaret Ann Davis of Pensacola, Fla. They have three children and two grandchildren. The Denhams are residents of Newton.



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# Committee on Committees announced by President

ST. LOUIS (BP) — The 1987 Committee on Committees appointed by Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian P. Rogers has been expanded from 54 to 66 members.

The expansion was made necessary by a revised bylaw adopted during the 1986 SBC annual meeting, increasing participation from smaller state conventions.

This year, six conventions are represented on the Committee on Committees for the first time: Alaska, Nevada, New England, New York, Pennsylvania-South Jersey, and Utah-Idaho.

Four conventions among the 37 affiliated with the SBC still are not represented: Hawaii, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Northern Plains, and Wyoming.

During the 1986 annual meeting, messengers approved a bylaw which sets up a tiered system which increases the participation of state conventions.

Previously, a state convention had to reach 25,000 members before being represented on the boards and agencies of the convention.

The new Bylaw 31 allows any messenger to participate on the Credentials and Resolutions Committees or any other "special committee" appointed by the convention.

The new Bylaw 32 sets up the tiered representation system. Under it, conventions which have in excess of 15,000 members are granted representation on the Executive Committee, Committee on Committees and the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees.

Conventions which reach 20,000 members qualify for the basic three groups, plus representation on the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, and Sunday School Board.

Conventions with more than 25,000 members qualify for representation on all boards, commissions, institutions, and committees of the convention.

Five of the six conventions which gained representation on the Committee on Committees qualify for the basic representation: Alaska (19,142 members); Nevada (19,228); New England (16,844); Pennsylvania-South Jersey (19,368); and Utah-Idaho (17,614). One convention — New York — has 24,786 members and qualifies for the second tier.

Rogers named James L. Sells, chancellor of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. as chairman.

The Committee on Committees has as its primary responsibility the nomination of people to serve on the 1988 Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees, which, in turn, nominates people to serve as trustees of the 24 national entities affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The committee is composed of two people from each qualified state convention. Nominated to the committee are:

ALABAMA — Lenny Bolton, pastor of Chisholm church, Montgomery, and Richard Lee II, a banker and member of First church, Gardendale.

ALASKA — Johnny N. McCoy, pastor of First church, North Pole, and Herbert L. Cotton, a member of Grandview church, Anchorage.

ARIZONA — Gary Ramer, pastor of First church, Bullhead City, and Joe May, a member of First Southern church, Tucson.

ARKANSAS — Mike Huckabee, pastor of Beech Street First church, Texarkana, and Jerry A. Baugh, director of laboratory services for Baptist Hospital and member of Forest Highlands church, Little Rock.

CALIFORNIA — Buddy M. Reeves, pastor of First Southern church, Hemet, and Mike Carter, a businessman and member of Bethel church, Escondido.

COLORADO — W. Michael Wilson, pastor of Aurora Central church, Aurora, and Mrs. Rebecca Henderson, a pastor's wife and member of Pleasant Valley church, Colorado Springs.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — William L. Bort Sr., pastor of Kendall church, Washington, and Mrs. Clara Belle Moore, a homemaker and member of First church, Washington.

FLORIDA — Freddie Smith, pastor of Central church, Sanford, and Fred Greene, a businessman and member of First church, West Palm Beach.

GEORGIA — Ron Long, pastor of Glenwood Hills church, Lithonia, and Dave Hester, a businessman and member of Abilene church, Martinez.

ILLINOIS — D. Samuel Boyd, pastor of First church, Libertyville, and Richard Mason, president of Frontier College and member of First church, Fairfield.

INDIANA — Steven M. Fain, pastor of First church, Charlestown, and Ken Wring, a businessman and member of Eastlake church, Merrillville.

KANSAS/NEBRASKA — Roger D. Roberts, pastor of Metropolitan church, Wichita, Kan., and Terry E. Dick, a businessman and member of First church, Belle Plaine, Kan.

KENTUCKY — Harold Cathey, pastor of Unity church, Ashland, and Terry L. Norris, a dentist and member of Pleasant Grove church, Owensboro.

LOUISIANA — Louis L. Morris, retired pastor of First church, Monroe, and Mrs. Grace Lee, wife of the retired Louisiana convention executive director and member of First church, Pineville.

MARYLAND/DELAWARE — Dallas W. Bumgarner, pastor of Elavon church, Glen Burnie, Md., and Mrs. Elizabeth L. Crowley, a pastor's wife and member of Monroeville church, Rockville, Md.

ICHIGAN — Damon Patterson, pastor of Monroe Missionary church, Monroe, and Clifford J. Williams, a layman and member of Immanuel church, Romeo.

MISSISSIPPI — L. Edward Gandy, pastor of First church, Kosciusko, and Carl Ford, an attorney and member of Second church, Laurel.

MISSOURI — Rick E. Ferguson, pastor of First church, DeSoto, and James L. Sells, chancellor of Southwest Baptist University and member of First church, Bolivar.

NEVADA — Robert G. Holmes, pastor of First Southern church, Henderson, and Ray Bradley, a layman and member of Twin Lake church, Las Vegas.

NEW ENGLAND — Jim Schneider, pastor of Pleasant Valley church, Groton, Conn., and Bruce Allen, pastor of First church, Shrewsbury, Mass.

NEW MEXICO — Steven R. Taylor, pastor of Sandia church, Albuquerque, and Gerald R. Farley, business manager of Hoffmantown church, Albuquerque.

NEW YORK — Harry V. Maples, pastor of Long Falls church, Cartage, and Peter W. Hoadley, a college professor and member of Emmanuel church, Pottsdam.

NORTH CAROLINA — James Johnson, pastor of West Asheville church, Asheville, and Frederick T. Corbin, a college professor and member of Hayes-Barton church, Raleigh.

NORTHWEST — Wayne McDill, pastor of Metropolitan church, Portland, Ore., and Albert C. Jones, a layman and member of Vine Street church, Roseburg, Ore.

OHIO — Glenn Davidson, pastor of Pisgah Heights church, Westchester, and Star Powley, an engineer and member of University church, Middletown.

OKLAHOMA — A. William Merrell, pastor of Country Estates church, Midwest City, and Chuck Bowman, director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and member of Henderson Hills church, Edmond.

PENNSYLVANIA/SOUTH JERSEY — Nelson M. Burr Sr., pastor of Delvan church, Delvan, N.J., and Mrs. Sharon Davenport, the wife of an associate pastor and member of Pittsburgh church, Pittsburgh, Pa.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Donald C. Purvis, pastor of Lakeview church, Hartsville, and Bob Debenport, a businessman and member of First church, Columbia.

TENNESSEE — Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers church, Nashville, and Joseph A. Clayton, a high school principal and member of First church, Collierville.

TEXAS — George Harris, pastor of Castle Hills First church, San Antonio, and John A. Martindale, a layman and member of First church, Jasper.

UTAH/IDAHO — Charles Ray, retired pastor of First church, Kearns, Utah, and John M. Embrey, a supply preacher and member of Calvary church, Boise, Idaho.

VIRGINIA — Robert C. Jackson, director of missions of New River Baptist Association and member of First church, Galax, and Mrs.

Virginia Kinzer, a homemaker and member of the Culpeper church, Culpeper.

WEST VIRGINIA — Ronald W. Skidmore, pastor of Edgemont church, Bluefield, and Floyd F. Wilmeth, a retired businessman and member of Altizer church, Huntington.

**SBC**  
**ST. LOUIS**  
1 · 9 · 8 · 7

## Rogers names groups to serve convention

(Continued from page 3)  
that (refined) list back to the vice presidents for them to review and from the final list made the appointments," Rogers said.

Roberts told Baptist Press he had met with Rogers and Stanton about the appointments and "agreed on the list of information we wanted" on the recommendations.

Although he said he had not seen the final list, Roberts said he had gone over the names. "Adrian seemed very considerate and fair of any suggestions Jack and I had," he said.

"There were a great host of people I did not know, but those I did know, I agreed on. I feel there are some very good nominations," he added.

Stanton was traveling and could not be reached by Baptist Press. Rogers said he also had contacted Registration Secretary Lee Porter of Nashville for suggestions on the Credentials and

Tellers Committees. Porter works with each group during the three days of the annual meeting.

"I asked Lee Porter if he had any persons he would like to suggest. He suggested one person and that person was named to the Credentials Committee," Rogers said.

Rogers said he received "more than 500" recommendations from which he made the appointments, adding those came "from the rank and file of Southern Baptists, state paper editors, seminary presidents, executive directors of state conventions, other denominational employees, presidents of state conventions, and the vice presidents."

"We have seriously and prayerfully considered these recommendations. A fact of interest is that 18 of the recommendations I have used came from state executive directors," he said.

He added: "I would hope that our people would receive these people and pray for them. They are, I believe, well motivated and highly qualified and believe what we as Southern Baptists traditionally have believed."

## Gulfshore still has space

There is still space available in these Gulfshore conferences and time to register for any one of them.

May 11-15, I Senior Adult; May 15-17, Single Adult; May 18-20, II Senior Adult; May 21-23, III Senior Adult; May 25-29, I Youth; May 29-June 2, II Youth;

June 25-27, Church Training Leadership; June 29-July 3, Family Enrichment; July 6-8, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries; July 9-13, I Youth Music; July 13-17, II Youth Music; July 23-25, Music Leadership; July 27-29, I Sunday School Leadership; July 30-Aug. 1, II Sunday School Leadership;

August 3-5, III Sunday School Leadership; August 6-8, IV Sunday School Leadership; August 13-17, IX Youth; August 18-22, IV Senior Adult.

For reservations contact: Frank Simmons, manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point; Pass Christian, MS 39571; telephone: (601) 452-7261.

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# Forum's three sessions include Rosalyn Carter, Roy Honeycutt

ST. LOUIS (BP) — An expanded format and new speakers will greet participants in the Southern Baptist Forum, to be held June 14-15 in Kiel Auditorium here.

The Forum traditionally is held immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, which this year is June 16-18 in St. Louis. Previously the Forum has had just one Monday afternoon meeting, but this year's event will be comprised of sessions Sunday evening, June 14, and Monday morning and afternoon, June 15, said Charles Wade, Forum chairman and pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas.

The convention's breadth and depth of speakers made the expanded format necessary, Wade said. "Those of us who have been working on the Forum felt the availability of many Southern Baptist pastors, professors, and lay persons whom Southern Baptists need and want to hear required an expanded program," he explained.

Forum planners followed through on that idea by creating a completely new line-up of Forum preachers, added Kenneth Chafin, a Forum organizer and professor of preaching at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.: "We have all new speakers. This is a great big denomination with a lot

of talent. We think this denomination is too big and rich in talent to go down there and hear the same people. We can use different people every year for the next 20 years and not exhaust the possibilities."

Speakers are Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Seminary; Don Aderhold, pastor of Columbia Drive Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.; Rosalyn Smith Carter, wife of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter of Plains, Ga.; James Slatton, pastor of River Road Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.; Nancy Hastings Sehested, associate pastor of Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.;

Also Oswald Hoffman, preacher for "The Lutheran Hour" from St. Louis; Fisher Humphreys, professor of theology at New Orleans Seminary; John Hewitt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C.; Lavon Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church, Norman, Okla.; and Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas.

Musicians are Jim Davis, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Tulsa; Ron Boud, professor of church music at Southern Seminary; and Cynthia Clawson, concert artist from Louisville.

"Uniting All Things in Christ" will be the theme for the event. "We hope to show that Southern Baptists have an enormous amount of variety in them" in terms of such factors as geography, size of churches, approaches to worship, and gender of leaders, Chafin said. "We are hoping there will be a wholesome awareness that we are all different yet united.

"We want to provide fellowship for people in support of theological education and home and foreign missions," he added. "We want to be an island of affirmation and encouragement to people who have not found that in recent years."

Music director for the meeting will be Malvie Giles from Magnolia, Ark. Betty Jean Chatham of Shelbyville, Ky., will be pianist, and her daughter, Emily, of Charlotte, N.C., will be violinist.

D'Lesia Carroll writes for WMU, SBC.

## Hinson, Sparkman on program

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Campus ministers from across the country will focus on the relationship between their spiritual journeys and their ministries to college students during the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers here June 14-15.

"Equipped for the Journey" will be

the theme for the meeting, which will be held in the Mayfair Hotel in downtown St. Louis, said Pam Taylor, associate director of the North Texas State University Baptist Student Union and the association's vice president for programs. The conference will be conducted immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"For the past several years, we have been on a real intellectual plain," Taylor said. "This year, we are looking at how we can grow spiritually and help our students to grow. We are going to look at our own spiritual pilgrimages and how they affect our ministry."

Keynote speeches will be delivered by E. Glenn Hinson, professor of church history at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; Scott Walker, pastor

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- May 10-June 21 Christian Home Emphases (CT-Family Ministry Emphasis)  
May 11-13 Area Preaching Conference; Memphis, Tenn.; 1:30 p.m., 11th Noon, 13th (CAPM)  
May 14 Preaching and Worship Conference; FBC, Philadelphia; 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (CAPM)  
May 15 Preaching and Worship Conference; Collins BC, Collins; 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (CAPM)  
May 15-16 Prison and Jail Ministry Consultation; Parchman Equipping Center; 9:30 a.m., 15th-Noon, 16th (CoMi)



## Baptist Forum

June 14-15, 1987

Kiel Auditorium Opera House  
St. Louis, Missouri

THEME: Uniting All Things In Christ  
Ephesians 1:10

### Sunday Evening, June 14, 1987

Gene Garrison, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, presiding  
6:45 — Prelude — Organist, Ron Boud, professor of church music, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

7:00 — Congregational singing — Jim Davis, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

— Roy L. Honeycutt Jr., president, Southern Seminary  
— Don Aderhold, pastor, Columbia Drive Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.  
— Announcements and Offering — Charles Wade, pastor, First Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas

— Special music — Jim Davis  
— Address — Rosalyn Smith Carter, wife of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Plains, Ga.

— Benediction

### Monday Morning, June 15

Gene Garrison, presiding

8:45 — Prelude — Ron Bound  
9:00 — Congregational singing — Jim Davis

— James Slatton, pastor, River Road Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.  
— Business Session and Offering — Charles Wade

— Nancy Hastings Sehested, associate pastor, Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.

— Special music  
— Oswald Hoffman, preacher, The Lutheran Hour, St. Louis

11:30 — Benediction

### Monday Afternoon, June 15

Gene Garrison, presiding

1:15 — Prelude — Ron Bound  
1:30 — Congregational singing — Jim Davis

— Fisher Humphries, professor of theology, New Orleans Seminary  
— John Hewitt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C.

— Announcements and offering  
— Lavon Brown, pastor, First Baptist Church, Norman, Okla.  
— Special music — Cynthia Clawson, Nashville

— Winfred Moore, pastor, First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas

4:00 — Benediction

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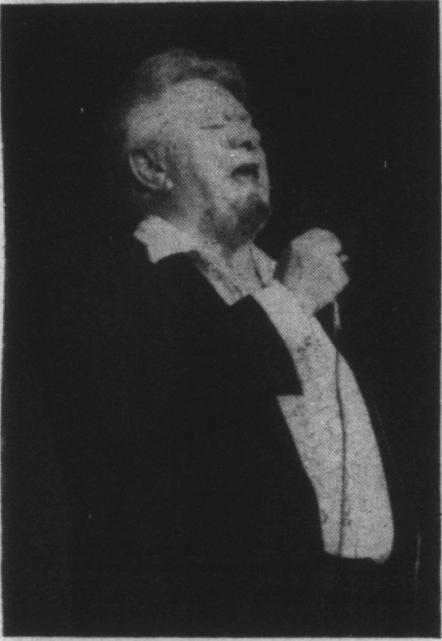
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# 13,000 seniors hit Fort Worth

By Don McGregor

Two Mississippians took over the first annual Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention last week in Fort Worth, Texas, and captured the hearts of the 13,000 who attended the conclave.

Jerry Clower, Mississippi Baptist layman from Yazoo City and star of the Grand Ole Opry, spoke during an evening service given to a western motif. His bright red, western-type suit fit the emphasis. He charmed the audience with his stories as he wove them into a challenge for the senior



**Jerry Clower**, Yazoo City Baptist layman and Grand Ole Opry star, speaks to the first SBC Senior Adult Convention in Fort Worth.

adults to live positively in their golden years.

The other Mississippian, Irene Martin, pianist and **Baptist Record** employee who also wore a western-style outfit on the western theme evening, was the pianist for the convention. Many of the convention goers already knew her from Chautauqua programs at Ridgecrest and Glorieta, and soon the senior adults throughout the crowded Fort Worth convention center had fallen under her spell. Her flamboyant piano style and her compelling friendliness endeared her to the free-wheeling seniors.

The senior adults went to the convention with no intention but to enjoy the meeting, to enjoy themselves, and to enjoy the other senior adults. They accomplished all three purposes.

Horace L. Kerr, in an interview following the meeting, said the seniors had no agenda to accomplish, no one was running for president of the group, and the meeting was an outstanding success. Kerr is the manager of the Senior Adult Section of the Family Ministry Department of the Sunday School Board. He and Sam Satterfield, consultant in the section, said that the time for another such convention would be determined after studying the conditions of this one. Satterfield was responsible for the details of this convention. They said that the section would not be able to produce such a meeting on an annual basis but that five years between meetings would be too long for the senior adults to wait. Satterfield in-

dicated that every other year is a possibility.

The 13,000 conventioneers came from all over the nation and some from Canada. They came in buses, cars, and by plane and overwhelmed the hotel facilities in downtown Fort Worth. Eight hundred came in 20 buses from Easley, S.C. They seemed not to mind long waits for food, and visited with each other as they waited.

The other speakers for the convention were Jess Moody, pastor of First Church, Van Nuys, Calif., and Kerr. Moody's address was during the opening session, and Kerr addressed the final session.

The music was under the direction of John Ballard, who is associate pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas. The organist was Vernenice Anderson, the organist at First Church, Hurst, Texas, a Fort Worth suburb. Russell Newport, a Springfield, Mo., businessman, was soloist for the convention.

Wilbur W. Swartz, retired professor of preaching at New Orleans Seminary, was the devotional leader, usually presenting dramatic monologues adapted from scripture. He now lives in Elm Mott, Texas, a Waco suburb.

Douglas L. Anderson is director of the Family Ministry Department of the Sunday School Board.

Senior adult choirs were present from Tulsa, Okla.; from Louisiana; from Houston, Texas; and from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. On Tuesday morning the Louisiana State Senior Adult Choir, under the direction of Carroll Lowe, sang four selections from "Meet and Eat, There IS Something More," a senior adult musical written by Mississippi composers Ann Colbert of Forest and Irene Martin of Harperville.

Presiding during the sessions were Kerr, Anderson, and Satterfield and W. L. Howse, a consultant in the Senior Adult Section.

On Tuesday morning a cake commemorating the 10th anniversary of *Mature Living*, the publication of the Senior Adult Section, was presented to Jack Guldridge, editor of *Mature Living*, and Zada Malugen, associate editor.

A western barbecue for the conventioneers was the Tuesday evening meal for the convention. A western band, the Rowe Brothers Band from the Fort Worth area, entertained the senior adults during the meal.

Moody told the convention that senior adults aren't looking for death, they are looking for life. He urged them to join together to defeat the lottery bill that is before the Texas Legislature.

He declared that senior adults are the ones who put the moral backbone in America and that the Holy Spirit power of senior adults could "start a revival that would blow the socks off the devil."

Kerr said that the convention "has been greater than anything any of us ever dreamed." He recounted some

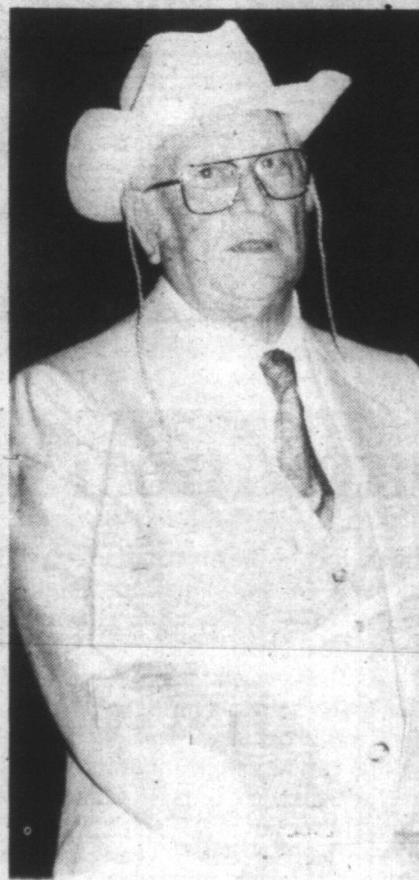
(Continued on page 12)



The Louisiana State Senior Adult Choir, under the direction of Carroll Lowe, sings a composition by two Mississippians, "Meet and Eat, There IS Something More." The composers were Irene Martin of Harperville and Ann Colbert of Forest.



A large group from Parkway Church, Jackson, was a part of the 13,000 registrants at the SBC convention for senior adults.



**Clark Hensley** of Jackson, senior adult consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Church Training Department, was recognized with other state senior adult leaders and given a white hat as one of the good guys.



**Irene Martin**, pianist from Harperville and **Baptist Record** employee, was the pianist for the nationwide Senior Adult Convention.



**Horace Kerr**, a native of Louisville, Miss., is manager of the Senior Adult Section of the Family Ministry Department of the Sunday School Board. He presented the closing address for the convention.

## MC is site of Crosspoint sports camp

Mississippi College in Clinton will be in the site of Crosspoint, a Christian sports camp for children and early adolescents, June 29 through July 4.

Sponsored by the Church Recreation Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, the Mississippi College camp is one of ten being conducted on various Southern Baptist college and university campuses. Crosspoint is for girls and boys enrolled in grades four through eight during the 1986-87 school year.

Participants will improve their skills in one of six sports, including tennis, basketball, softball/baseball, football, soccer, or gymnastics. A select faculty of Christian coaches and athletes will teach sports skills and model wholesome attitudes in the development of character and sportsmanship.

There will also be Bible study, worship, and motivational topics that are keyed to young Christians.

A week at Crosspoint will cost \$195. This includes all expenses for five nights lodging, 15 meals, insurance, T-shirt, and instructional fees.

For an application or additional information on Crosspoint at Mississippi College, write to the Office of Continuing Education, Box 4185, Clinton, MS 39058, or call 925-3301.

A few weeks ago, some of the women in my Sunday School class were talking about our mothers and how often they say, "When I get old, I don't want to be a burden to my children."

"Whyever not?" I wondered. Certainly we as children must have been burdens to them during our babyhood and growing-up years. Maybe now it's the mothers' turn to receive some waiting on. Isn't there a saying that love lightens the load? If that worked for the mothers, then it should work for the sons and daughters.

From the time I was born until I left home after high school graduation, my mother prepared the food I ate. Daddy helped sometimes, and my sister in her teen years did, too. But I really can't remember doing much of anything there except washing a few dishes.

Not only did Mama cook on a hot wood-burning stove every morning, noon, and night. She helped to plant, harvest, and peel or shell the food from the garden and the potato and tomato patches. She fed the chickens that laid the eggs, and she sometimes milked the cows. She picked the berries for the blackberry jelly.

After the many kitchen and outdoor

## To Mama, with my thanks

chores were done, she'd sew in the afternoons or at night to make dresses for herself, for Betty, and for me. Often she could buy a colorful remnant for a cheaper price than a larger piece of cloth. With infinite patience and skill, she'd turn the pattern pieces again and again, finding just the right way to place them, so she would have enough material, and not waste an inch. I remember very well the blue-flowered pinafore I wore on my first date. Of course Mama made it. And I remember the advice she passed along to me from her own mother — "Pretty is as pretty does."

Making the clothes wasn't all. She kept them clean, too. But she didn't pitch them into an electric washing machine. She had to draw water from a well with a windlass, and fill two metal wash tubs, and build a fire under the black pot where she boiled the white clothes.

She made starch for the cotton clothes, and she ironed — not with an electric iron, but with flat irons heated on the kitchen stove. I did occasionally help to press the unstarched clothes, to do a bit of rinsing after the scrubbing session she'd finished, and to hang garments on the line.

Since Mama never wants to go

anywhere without looking bandbox neat, I'm sure I was a trial to her, for I was always plopping down in the grass under a tree to read a book, and ruining my best Sunday dress.

Mama made our quilts, even sometimes picked the cotton that made the padding for the quilts. She made our pillows, stuffing them with feathers. Sometimes she made our sheets from unbleached muslin. And still, when W.D. and I visit her house in winter, she will come in at night to ask, "Are you warm enough?" and lovingly lay an extra quilt across our feet.

When I was three and a yellow-jacket stung me on my hand, Mama stopped what she was doing to rub baking soda on my finger. When I was eight and cried with toothache, she stopped and looked for the oil of cloves to soothe my pain. When I was 12 and coughed for six weeks after I got wet in a rainstorm, she would get up at night to rub my throat with Vicks.

Yet Mama made time for birthday parties and holiday celebrations. And she liked to plan and present missionary programs. I remember how she would often write out her plans and even her prayers before WMU meetings. In her weekly letters to me,

she gives lots of details. I think maybe I inherited her love for writing, and for instituting and keeping family traditions. I am grateful for that, as well as for all the stitches she has sewed for me, and all the pies she has baked.

Most of all I'm grateful that on Sunday mornings she didn't say she was too tired to go to church or that we didn't have anything to wear or that we didn't have a way to go. Actually, we didn't have a car for quite a long while. Yet on Sunday mornings after breakfast, she and Daddy would prepare part of the Sunday lunch, and then we'd all get dressed for church and hope some neighbor would stop and ask us to ride to church. Always someone did.

Thank you, Mama. I love you and want to wish you a happy Mother's Day. And now won't you come and visit me, rest a little, and let me cook your lunch?



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# WMU meeting

— Hallelujah Chorus — Missouri Music Women  
5:30 — Prayer Box Supper  
**Sunday Evening, June 14**  
7:15 — Pre-session Music — Betty Jean Chatham, pianist; Emily Chatham, violinist  
7:30 — Celebrate: Look at the Fields — Opening Meditation: Celebrate — The Dreamer in Action, Annie Armstrong — Laurita Miller  
— Hymn: "We've a Story to Tell" — Prayer — Bible Study: Celebrate — Study the Fields — Dorothy Sample; "The harvest is plentiful . . ." (Matt. 9:37 NIV)  
— Special Music — Malvie Giles  
— Our Session in Focus: Look at the Fields — Marjorie McCullough; Recognition of Missionaries  
— Hymn: "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling"  
— Cause for Celebration: WMU Annual Report — Part II; Vision 88 — Carolyn Weatherford  
— Special Music  
— Missions Feature: Celebrate — The Love of God — Russell and Helen Begaye, home missionaries, Arlington, Texas; Pam Wesley, children's music director, First Indian Baptist Church, Albuquerque; Rose Ignacio, WMU director, Tinian Baptist Church, Cuba, N.M.; Lydia Whitey, WMU director, First Indian Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Helen Coons, associational WMU director, Sapulpa, Okla.  
— Benediction  
**Monday Morning, June 15**  
8:45 — Pre-session Music — Betty Jean Chatham, pianist; Emily Chatham, violinist  
9:00 — Celebrate: Pray  
— Opening Meditation: Celebrate — The Woman Who Prayed with Others, Ann Baker Graves — Laurita Miller  
— Hymns: "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak" and "I Am Praying for You"  
— Prayer  
— Bible Study: Celebrate — By Praying for Others — Dorothy Sample; "ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24 KJV)  
— Special Music — Missouri Music Women  
— Our Session in Focus: Missionary Praying — Marjorie McCullough  
— Hymn: "Teach Me to Pray"  
— Business  
— Hymn: "God, Our Author and Creator"  
— Cause for Celebration: WMU Annual Report — Part III; National Prayer Plan, I Can Have a Part — Carolyn Weatherford  
— Celebrate: You Prayed For Me — June Scobee, widow of astronaut Dick Scobee, Houston  
— Hymn: "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"  
— Missions Talk Time: Celebrate Christ for All — Everywhere; "I chose you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last" (John 15:16 NIV) Interviewer — Suzanne Moss McMahon; Participants — Judy Edwards, home missionary, Yah To Hey, N.M.; Vera Gardner, foreign missionary, Thailand; Charlotte Cearley, foreign missionary, Zimbabwe  
— Special Music — Malvie Giles  
— Keynote Address: World in View — R. Keith Parks, president, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board  
— Benediction  
11:45 — Promotivation Luncheon

**Monday Afternoon, June 15**  
1:45 — Pre-session Music — Betty Jean Chatham, pianist; Emily Chatham, violinist  
2:00 — Celebrate: Give — Opening Meditation: Celebrate — The Life Fragrant with Self-denial, Kathleen Mallory — Laurita Miller  
— Hymn: "Come, All Christians, Be Committed"  
— Prayer  
— Bible Study: Celebrate — Through Giving — Dorothy Sample; "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8 NIV)  
— Special Music — Malvie Giles  
— Our Session in Focus: Stimulate the Grace of Giving — Marjorie McCullough  
— Hymn: "Because I Have Been Given Much" — Cause for Celebration: WMU Annual Report — Part IV; New Hope Products — Carolyn Weatherford  
— Hymn: "Something For Thee"  
— Missions Talk Time: Celebrate — Grow in Giving; "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15 NIV)  
Interviewer — Suzanne Moss McMahon; Participants — Virgie Brown, home missionary, Milwaukee; Dan Stringer, executive director, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville; Jerry Moser, home missionary, Theriot, La.; Jane Courtney, foreign missionary, Guatemala  
— Hymn: "We Give Thee But Thine Own"  
— Special Music — Missouri Music Women  
— Message: Celebrate — Through Giving — John Mills, director for West Africa, Foreign Mission Board  
— Benediction  
4:00 — Autograph Party  
A Century to Celebrate: History of WMU — Catherine Allen, WMU associate executive director, Birmingham A Backward Glance: History of WMU — Rees Watkins, author, Richmond And Some Had Dreams: History of WMU — Jackie Durham, author, Decatur, Ga.

**Monday Evening, June 15**  
7:15 — Pre-session Music — Betty Jean Chatham, pianist; Emily Chatham, violinist

## ACTS affiliates

(Continued from page 3)

ACTS Network affiliates for outstanding achievements in local programming, promotion and management. Awards will be presented during a program at 8 p.m., May 8 at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

Program personalities for the awards ceremony include Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission; Jess Moody, pastor of First Church, Van Nuys, Calif., as master of ceremonies; and Pearl Burns, executive director for ACTS Prayer Awakening Ministry as awards hostess.

Other include "The Company," a drama group from Southwestern Seminary; Regina Elliott, Christian vocalist from Kannapolis, N.C.; Mike Meece of "The Sunshine Factory," an ACTS program for children; and Mike Frazier and Karen Hayter of "Cope," a live call-in counselling program on ACTS.

Music will be provided by the orchestra of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth.

Ken Camp writes for Texas Baptists.

## Our daughter

(Continued from page 2)

with the Lord's help, we made it through her 10th year of school. She began teaching piano lessons and paying her own school expenses, spending money, etc. In the 11th year, she surrendered her life to full-time Christian service. How her father, mother, grandmother, Christian friends, and relatives on both sides rejoiced! She has been serving the Lord every since, and I believe she and her husband will continue to do so.

Since the laboratory at Southaven diagnosed my left breast as a malignancy, I have had two surgeries. Since then, the malignancy has spread to the lymph nodes in the armpit of my left arm.

Since that time, the Lord has allowed me to witness for him in many ways I never dreamed possible. He led me to witness to 36 telephone operators; 35 who said they were Christians said they would pray for me and that they would ask their churches to pray for me each Sunday. The Lord inspired me to win a 12-year-old neighbor boy to Christ and led me to witness to a 70-year-old neighbor man who had already been saved but who needed to grow in the Lord.

He has been and is now leading me to witness to a lady doctor, who is a Buddhist, and to her eight-year-old son, who is in the second grade but can read sixth grade level library books. The father, who is a Catholic but is a Christian, performed the surgery for the removal of my left breast.

I believe that the Emile Aftandilian family of Senatobia, will one day be a wonderful Christian family.

When I was a patient at Flaget Memorial hospital in Bardstown, Ky., the Lord led me to witness to patients, nurses, doctors, visitors, priests, and nuns.

With hormone therapy, I hope to be able to control the malignant lymph nodes. I have promised the Lord that I will witness for him at every opportunity for the rest of my life.

## — Staff Changes —

Luther S. Litchfield has resigned as chaplain of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Chemical Dependency Center where he has served for ten-and-a-half years to become program director of Jackson Recovery Center, May 1.

Litchfield is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary, a former pastor, and a certified alcohol and drug counselor.

Edd Holloman has resigned as pastor of Corinth Church, Heidelberg, as of April 19, and is available for pastorate, interim, supply, or revivals. Phone (601) 776-6007, or write Route 3, Box 313 A, Quitman, MS 39355.

Michael Catt has accepted the call to become pastor of First Church, Ada, Okla. He presently serves as associate pastor at Sagamore Hill Church, Fort Worth, Tex. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and a native of Pascagoula.

Young goes from a similar position at Westside Church, New Port Richey, Fla.

Young is a native of Jackson where he attended Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, and Hinds Junior College. He graduated from University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in psychology. He later received a master of divinity from Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.

Young is married to the former Laura Thomae and they are the parents of a son, Mark.

## Names in the News

Clarence Cutrell, retired Stewardship consultant, MBCB, is available for conferences, revivals, interim pastorate and pastorate of small churches. His address is 5805 River Road, Jackson, MS 39211; phone, 957-0867.

Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain, honored Mrs. May Buchanan on Celebration Sunday, March 29. Mrs. Buchanan began her

56th year as organist in February, 1987. She has served as WMU director for nearly as long. The church expressed its appreciation with the gift of a silver bowl. Three of her children and several of their family members joined the church in the recognition: Elizabeth Newcomb, Huntsville, Ala.; Nancy Hart, Murray, Ky.; and Jim Buchanan, Memphis, Tenn. A daughter, Louise Buchanan, Arlington, Va., was unable to attend. Mrs. Buchanan has six grandchildren.

She is a native of New Albany, an alumna of Blue Mountain College and of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Mrs. Buchanan has taught

piano and organ at Blue Mountain College, served two terms as president of the National Alumnae Association and was chosen by the college as "Alumna of the Year" for 1973. In 1953 she was selected as "Mississippi Mother of the Year." Her husband, the late J. E. Buchanan, was business manager of Blue Mountain College from 1926-65.

Matt Buckles is pastor.

North Delta Baptist Association, M. C. Johnson, director of missions, was first runner-up at the National Association on Volunteers in Criminal Justice (NAVCJ).

The awards were presented at the Annual Awards Banquet, New Orleans, March 18. Johnson has been involved in the R. I. D. (Regimented Inmate Discipline) at the State Penitentiary, Parchman, Mississippi.

Johnson and other volunteers from the North Delta association council meet monthly with about 20 R.I.D. parolees.

## — Revival Dates —

Dry Creek, Florence: May 24-29; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; dinner on the grounds following morning service; Mon.-Fri., 7 nightly; Wilbur Webb, First, Drew, evangelist.

Concord Church, Route 3, Booneville (Tippah) will host a lay renewal weekend May 15-17. Services will begin at 5:30 p.m., May 15, and will conclude with the evening service, May 17. Gene Bobo from Natchez will be the coordinator. W. G. Dowdy is pastor.

Spring Creek, (Neshoba): May 18-22; Charles Shipman, West Helena, Ark., evangelist; C. C. (Slim) Burns, Sebastopol, singer; services, 10:30 a.m., Tues.-Fri.; 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; Hugh Martin, pastor.

Grandview, Pearl: May 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 nightly; Kenneth Harrison, Byram Church, evangelist; Richard Sparks Jr., Puckett Church, music evangelist; Wade Chappell, pastor.

(Continued on page 11)

# Just for the Record



**Easthaven Church, Lincoln, Elementary III** recently recited 66 books of the Bible and was awarded sword drill Bibles. Mrs. Fred Baker is director; Mrs. Betty Allred and Miss Betty Baker, teachers; and Elmer Baker, secretary. Pictured, front row, left to right, are Donna Allen, Lacey and Stacey Walker, David McNamee, Patrick Honea, and Robert Wooley. Not pictured, Dustin Stewart and Ken Taylor. Awarding Bibles is Farrell Blankenship, interim minister of education.



**North Winona Church, Winona**, under the leadership of Frank Bishop, pastor, held Jubilation Sunday, March 29, as the last fifth Sunday emphasis on its building program. The goal of \$7,000 was exceeded, and total offering for the day was \$9,000 enabling the retiring of the debt on the new sanctuary.

Attendance for Sunday School that day was 432. An old fashioned fellowship and dinner on the grounds followed the worship service. On program with Bishop, pictured, center, was two previous pastors involved in the building program, Eugene Barnett, left, and Leon Ballard, right.



**Westwood Church, Lauderdale Association**, presents perfect attendance awards to Mrs. Edwina Cooper, for 18 years and Bobby Cooper, right, for 19 years. Dave Golisch, left, Sunday School director, presents the awards. W. Buford Usry is pastor.



**Westwood Church, Lauderdale Association**, presented an award for eight years perfect attendance in Sunday School to 10 year old Stephen Poole. Pictured, presenting the award is Wayne Gray, assistant Sunday School director. W. Buford Usry is pastor.

**Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain**, exceeded its Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$2,100. The total of the church's gifts to Home Mission offering was \$2,607. Mrs. May Buchanan is WMU director. Matt Buckles is pastor.

By action of the trustees of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, M. Kent Strum was named associate director/chief operating officer, effective May 1.

Strum will be responsible for the day to day operation of the hospital. The remainder of the administrative staff will remain the same.

Prior to coming to MBMC as Assistant Director in March, 1977, Mr. Strum served as Administrator of Memorial Hospital at Gulfport and Assistant Director of the University of Mississippi Hospital. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned a master's degree in hospital administration from the Medical College of Virginia. He is a deacon at First Church, Jackson.



Strum



"**KIDSFEST**" was the theme of the children's ministry at Fellowship Church, Lauderdale County, for the month of March. It was a month-long celebration of children, beginning with a special treat on March 6, the world's largest ice cream sundae! Puppet shows, cracker jacks and children's programs were all a part of "KIDSFEST." Kite-flying and a picnic ended this special month. Children's church workers are Jimmie and Myrtis Rutledge. Jeffrey R. Parker, pastor.



**Calvary Church, Petal**, held its GA coronation services, Mar. 18.

Pictured, from left, are Stephanie Prine, Randi Mixon, director, Carolyn Lucas, director, Amanda Warden, Stacy Anderson, queen, Jennifer Lucas, queen, Jodi Hebert, queen, Paige Boone, Marcia Warden, and Brandi Mixon, standing in front. Emmett Boone, pastor.

## WMU annual meeting

(Continued from page 10)

- 7:30 — Celebrate: Go — Open Meditation: Celebrate — The One Who Keeps On Going, Martha Franks — Laurita Miller
- Hymn: "O Zion Haste"
- Prayer
- Bible Study: Celebrate — As You Go — Dorothy Sample: "... Go to the whole world and preach the gospel to all mankind" (Mark 16:15 TEV).
- Special Music — Malvie Giles
- Our Session in Focus: Create an Environment — Marjorie McCullough
- Hymn: "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" — Cause for Celebration: WMU Annual Report — Part V — Carolyn Weatherford — Celebrate — His Willingness to Use Me — Mary Saunders, foreign missions volunteer, Richmond
- Celebrate Ten Years of Missions Education Council — Carolyn Weatherford
- Celebrate the Future: Let the Church Reach Out — Missouri Music Women
- Benediction

## Homecomings

**Concord, Dry Creek, Booneville**: May 10; activities begin at 10:30 a.m., Mother's Day program, morning worship, noon meal, and afternoon singing; W. G. Dowdy, pastor.

**New Hope (Oktibbeha)**: May 10; services begin at 10:15 a.m.; Dane Elliott, music; Hugh Lang, pastor, message; followed with lunch in fellowship hall.

**Oak Grove, located seven miles Southeast of Noxapater**: May 10; 11 a.m.; W. A. McPheeters, pastor, message; Ivan Reynolds and Jeremy Thomas, music; dinner served at church.

**Shady Grove, Hazlehurst**: May 24; worship service, 11 a.m.; dinner; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Ray Bridges, speaker; Danny Watkins, pastor.

**First, Boyle**: May 10; C. C. Carraway, former pastor will bring morning message; lunch to follow in fellowship hall; Joe Anderson, pastor.

Life without friendship is like the sky without the sun. (Biblical Recorder)

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# Committee on Boards picks 142 nominees

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — The 1987 Committee on Boards has released its nominations of people to serve on the Executive Committee, boards, commissions, committees, and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I think all of these candidates are well qualified to hold the jobs for which we have selected them," said T.C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va., chairman of the 1987 Committee on Boards.

"I was impressed with the dedication of the members of the committee and the thoroughness with which they have sought to identify the best qualified people. This is not to claim these 142 people are the best qualified out of 14.6 million Southern Baptists because I don't know how anybody would ever determine that."

"But I do think that every member has done the very best to pick out the people they thought were best, in so far as is humanly possible and working within the (Holy) Spirit," said Pinckney, a retired Air Force brigadier general and former fighter pilot.

The 54-member Committee on Boards (nominating committee) met in Nashville March 12-13 to nominate people to serve on 24 major boards, institutions, commissions, and committees of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 1987 committee acted on 247 positions, of which 104 are held by people eligible for nomination for a second term, 142 require replacements, and one position which is being eliminated under a reduction plan.

Currently, there are 892 people serving on boards of the 24 entities. Under the SBC system of rotating boards, about 25 percent of the positions become vacant each year, with about half of those being eligible for a second four-year term.

Under SBC bylaws, the report of the Committee on Boards must be released through the denominational news service, Baptist Press, at least 45 days in advance of the annual meeting, scheduled this year June 16-18 in Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis.

In order to serve, people nominated by the Committee on Boards must be elected by messengers at the annual meeting.

Pinckney said while the decisions were made in closed session, the results are "open" with the release of the committee report.

Pinckney said questions on inerrancy of Scripture were raised about "virtually every nominee. Given the state of affairs in the SBC, it would be remarkable if they weren't. But the parallel is that the amount of giving to the Cooperative Program from their churches was addressed on virtually every nominee. We tried to address the concerns on the issues that were dearest to the hearts of people within the convention."

He said while some voiced concerns about the beliefs of denominational

employees on the inerrancy of Scripture, "that was not a topic of general conversation, as I recall."

He said several nominees were rejected "who seemed well qualified in every respect except that their churches gave smaller percentages to the Cooperative Program. In those cases, we sought and found other names."

On inerrancy, Pinckney said: "It did not take the route of saying, 'This guy is an inerrantist and we will all vote for him.' We did not have that kind of hard and fast rule. But when the name of a person was presented, the person's stance and background and qualifications were reviewed and one of the things that was normally mentioned was the position on inerrancy."

Most of the nominees are inerrantists, he said, but "more than one" who would disagree with that theory of the inspiration of the Bible was appointed. "We emphasized that we were picking those whom we felt the Holy Spirit led us to; Southern Baptists who would best represent the long-time beliefs and standards of Southern Baptists as we understood them."

Among the items discussed by the committee was the appointment of additional people to serve on the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee, the entity which relates to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

If messengers to the annual meeting adopt a proposed revision in Bylaw 18, which changes the size and representation on the committee, the Committee on Boards must have nominees to serve on the PAC.

During its deliberations, the committee elected an eight-member subcommittee to meet in St. Louis in advance of the annual meeting to make needed adjustments in the final report.

As of the date of the release of the nominations, there were 14 places still needing to be filled, and the subcommittee will have to name replacements for persons who die, move or decline to serve before the convention.

Named to the subcommittee: Pinckney, a member of Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va.; B.D. Pounds, a telephone company manager and member of Immanuel Baptist Church, San Bernardino, Calif.; Mrs. Harold (Joan) Hendrick, a homemaker and beauty consultant and member of Parker Road Baptist Church, Florissant, Mo.; Jim Willoughby, a clothing store owner and member of Cameron Baptist Church, Lawton, Okla.; Mel McClellan, pastor of Rifle (Colo.) Baptist Church; Cecil Taylor, pastor of Cedar Crest Southern Baptist Church, West Monroe, La.; David Woods, pastor of Roanoke Rapids (N.C.) Baptist Church; and James Carey, pastor of Lackland Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas.

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

# 13,000 seniors hit

(Continued from page 8)

history of the Fort Worth area and told how the former Comanche Indian land was settled and held by pioneers who came and stayed. He told the senior adults that they are pioneers. He pointed out how changes had come about during their lifetimes in such fields as communications, trade and commerce, transportation, medicine, and religion. He said the senior adults at the convention were the models for the future of "Coming of Age," the convention theme. He told the seniors that they had the ability to live a quality life and to live an optimistic life. He said that the opportunity is now and that they must have a positive attitude.

The church is the senior adult's best ally, he said; and it can find ways of putting more quality into senior adults' lives.

Clower began by declaring his love for the seniors. He said he loved them

because they were not pessimistic and because they were energetic. Clower, a faithful member of First Church, Yazoo City, recounted an experience of attending the 175th anniversary of the East Fork Church in Amite County and rededicating his life during the meeting. He said, "Whenever the church doors are open, old Jerry's going to be there."

He told of backing into show business, how he made a record in 1970 and 30 days later it had become a million seller, and how he had been the No. 1 country comic in America 10 times. "But," he said, "the greatest thing that ever happened to me, more than all the success of show business . . ." and he quoted "I'd Rather Have Jesus." "The greatest thing," he declared, "is to witness for Christ whenever the opportunity comes."

He announced that when he retires he is going to move back to the East Fork Community in Amite County and live out his last days where he lived in his early years.

## First, Leland, to celebrate 100 years

First Church, Leland, will celebrate its centennial celebration, May 17, beginning at 11 a.m. Earl Kelly, executive secretary treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the keynote speaker. Lunch at the church will follow the services as well as preaching by former pastors. Copies of the newly published church history will be made available.

William L. Jaggar is pastor.



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By Arnold Carl Westphal

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## Though rejected, God still loves

By Robert M. Hanvey

Hosea 2:16 to 3:3

In our focal passage, Hosea 2:16 to 3:3, we find that God is willing to receive the adulterous family, the adulterous nation, and restore them to himself. There is nothing worse than to see a family, a nation or a person in deep and abiding sin. There is nothing more grievous than to see someone walking waywardly apart from God.

But as Christians we are able to understand that God reaches down to the most sinful of sinners, to the most wayward of peoples and homes and restores them to himself because of his great love for them. Is not the central message of Hosea, that regardless of how far one will go in sin, God still forgives and restores? In love God seeks to lead sinners to a restored relationship with him.

We want people to understand God's purpose and plan in relating to sinful Israel and how he would relate to people today regardless of the nature, extremity, and kind of sin. God is still in the forgiving and restoring work. This truth is exemplified for us in this lesson.

As we give consideration to our focal passage,



Hanvey

### UNIFORM

we understand that God promised that the day would come when Israel again would be faithful to him and the relationship between God and Israel would be restored. That would, indeed, be a great day, not only for Israel but more for God who would then be able to fellowship with a nation which had gone wayward.

Symbolized in that precious family of Hosea and Gomer and their children is the waywardness of God's people. Israel again would be blessed as a result of having been restored to the Lord God. The relationship would be continued. The depth of the love would be expressed, and surely they would have that deep and abiding and meaningful access to the God who loved them, who cared for them, who brought them into their existence. God instructed Hosea to take the adulteress as his wife again.

Surely, each and every time there is waywardness, even in our lives, God is still willing to reclaim us. Such was the case with Hosea and Gomer. Each time that waywardness occurred, Hosea was willing to receive Gomer. He knew that God had something in store so here

God is able to say to Israel, "Each time you are wayward, each time you become adulterous, I am willing to receive you unto myself, whether you are richly adorned or just plain, I will receive you back from the ways of difficulty and waywardness."

Hosea imposed disciplinary measures in order to lead to a restored relationship, and how true the necessity for us to be disciplined in our approach to God and our approach to people in our daily living experience. With Hosea and his wife, God would impose disciplinary measures on Israel in order to lead to a restored relationship. God has to give us boundaries in which we can operate. He has to give us limits to which we can go, else we might find ourselves walking over the boundaries or outside the limitations of our lives; and thereby causing damage to the relationship. These boundaries, these limitations are true in the lives of family members, in churches, in communities, and in nations. God will let us go so far, then we are called back.

Adults today who wonder whether relationships with God or others can be restored can surely understand through this lesson that God's love is sufficient to forgive and to restore. If one has his conscience stirred or burdened by the lives of those in trouble, and because of

sinful practices in those lives, he can share with them that God will consider their sin, forgive it, and restore that person or those persons to himself.

Hosea's love for Gomer can serve as a model for us to use in the practice of forgiveness and restoration in the relationships of our own families. Through the studying of our Bible passage for this week, Hosea's discipline of Gomer gives us insights into the process by which God brings about restored relationships. Remember the boundaries, remember the limitations? Surely, each of us works with those.

This Mother's Day we would be wise to look at family and understand that we can avoid difficulty and turmoil in family if we stay true and faithful to God. If we practice the principles of forgiveness and love, marriages and homes are enhanced in their spirituality. If we can emphasize the redemptive love and nature of God and the disciplines which God places upon us, we can find great blessings in our homes and in our families if we apply daily God's truth. Sometimes God rejects but he still loves. We sometimes walk apart from God, but he still redeems. Relationships are sometimes broken, but God mends. These are the great truths of God's love for us.

Robert Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

## The church empowered: God's witnessing people

By Nathan L. Barber

Acts 2:1-8, 41-42, 46-47

Jesus had "... presented himself alive, after his suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days ..." (1:3). He had commanded his disciples not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," he said, "you heard of from me; for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (1:4, 5).

Barber      Fifty days after the Passover came the day of Pentecost. "And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place (2:1)." It was at this time that God the Father did what he had promised to do; he baptized them with the Holy Spirit (1:5). The disciples, probably all of the 120 (v.15), were gloriously immersed in the Holy Spirit. It was an unmistakable happening, but one which the disciples would find themselves incapable of adequately explaining.

Of course, the Holy Spirit had always been ac-

### LIFE AND WORK

tive in the world (even in creation, Gen. 1:2 and throughout the Scriptures), but Pentecost inaugurated a divine presence and power in the life of every believer which had been realized by relatively few until then. Jesus had referred to it on one occasion as being "... clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). The Holy Spirit was/is God's gift to every believer (Acts 2:38). He is a gift of God's grace and cannot be earned. "Now he who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge (or down payment)" (II Cor. 1:21, 22).

At the time the disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit, there were attesting signs of hearing, seeing, and speaking which confirmed the miraculous nature of what was taking place.

Hearing — 1. The disciples heard a noise which was comparable to a violent, rushing wind; the noise filled the whole house where they were sitting (v. 2).

2. A multitude of other people heard the sound which occurred and they gathered together,

probably to discuss the sound and its origin (v. 6).

3. The multitude was bewildered, because they were each one hearing the disciples speak to them in their own language (vv. 6-12).

Seeing — The disciples saw tongues, which were similar in appearance to fire, being distributed and resting on each one of them (v. 3).

Speaking — 1. As the Spirit gave them the ability to speak out, the disciples began to speak with other tongues (v. 4). This was a supernatural gift of speaking in another language without ever having learned the language. This is not like the glossolalia or ecstatic utterances of I Corinthians. The languages referred to are represented by the list of nationalities and countries in verse 9-11.

2. The disciples were speaking of the "mighty deeds of God" (v. 11). They recognized the gathered multitude as their first opportunity to do the very thing for which they had been empowered, to be witnesses of what God had done for man through Jesus Christ. They remembered the words which Jesus had spoken to them, "... you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and

even to the remotest part of the earth" (1:8). Their witness centered in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ (vv. 22-24). The result of the disciples' empowered witnessing was that about 3,000 souls were added to the community of faith.

This community of faith was God's new people, the New Israel (Rom. 2:28, 29). Peter would later remind the church concerning her purpose as God's servant people, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (I Peter 2:9, 10).

The Lord added to the church day by day those who were being saved. These new believers joined the ranks of a spiritual group which devoted itself to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, prayer, sharing the breaking of bread, and worship. The Holy Spirit not only empowered for witnessing but also provided a unity of purpose.

Nathan Barber is pastor, First, Bay St. Louis.

## Job defends his innocence

By Charles Wesley

Job 29:1-4, 18-21; 31:4-10, 35-40

And the beat goes on. Just as the pulsations of music continue, Job persists in defending his innocence. As we read Job's defense, we are taught several important spiritual truths.

Have you ever dreamed of returning to the "good old days?" In chapter 29 Job continues to tell his story. Job expresses his desire to return to the days prior to his suffering. He would then enjoy the benefits of his wealth, the comfort of life without pain, the voices of his children, and the awareness of God being nearby.

Throughout chapter 29 Job described the blessings of God that he formerly experienced. At that time Job expected to live a long and profitable life, basking in the affection and admira-

tion of his family and friends. However, life has a way of harshly destroying one's dreams. The joyful sounds of music in Job's life was turned into sounds of mourning (30:3). Job was taught very effectively that one should never take for granted the blessings of God.

We should remember and heed the words of the psalmist: "Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of his benefits" (Psalm 103:1-2, NASB).

Job issues a final statement of his innocence before God. He attempts one more time to assure his friends that he is a man of integrity. Job states that his steps are not hid from God, and if his life is weighed on a just balance scale, God would recognize his integrity (31:4-6). Because one's steps are not hid from

God, Job desired that God would thoroughly investigate every aspect of his life for sin (31:7, 9). His walk, his heart, his eyes, and his hands were to be included in the investigation. In other words, Job wanted God to investigate his attitudes, desires, and behavior. Nothing was to be excluded from the investigation. Job further declares that if the investigation shows sin in his life then he should receive just punishment. We need to learn that our lives are constantly open to God's investigation. Therefore, we should live our lives with that awareness.

There is a parenthesis that should be added to our discussion of Job's defense of innocence. Is Job so sure of his innocence that he has become arrogant? Even though we know that the reason for Job's suffering is the attacks of the devil (chapters 1-2), we should recognize that Job was not perfect. David shows his understanding of the sinfulness of mankind when he said, "They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is no

one who does good, not even one" (Psalm 14:3, NASB). All of us are in need of God's grace and forgiveness.

In 31:35-40, Job presents a recapitulation of his innocence. Job's great desire was that God

would hear him. Job was not only wanting to know the reason for his suffering; he was also asking why God would not hear him and answer him. He was certain of being acquitted of any charges if God would speak. Job knew that his only hope for justice would come from God. Even though to Job God appeared to be deaf to his cries for help, Job would not relinquish his faith in a just God.

What are our thoughts and actions when God seems to have left us as easy prey to a vicious world? Does our faith remain intact when the validity and perseverance of our faith are tested? Job's decision was to maintain his faith in a just God.

Charles Wesley is pastor, Morrison Chapel Church.

### BIBLE BOOK

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# SCRAPBOOK / MOTHER'S DAY

## A white rose for Mama

She could not give us gifts of gold,  
But nothing broke love's binding hold.  
Our home was no pink marble place —  
Just a small house blessed by His grace.

No Rembrandt hung on papered wall,  
Her Christmas cactus bloomed for all.  
Around the table we would sit  
At supper time; the lamp was lit.

Our Mom answered every need —  
She bought us story books to read.  
Mom taught a feeling for the land.  
Obedience to God's own plan.

Each May my thoughts back track in time,  
That's why I write this simple rhyme:  
To praise my Mom in solemn rite —  
I wear a rose of purest white.

—Eunice D. Barnes  
Pascagoula

## Lord, bless her

Dear God, bless this aged lady  
who comes from her shack  
early in the morning  
with a sack on her back.  
To feed her swine —  
even before the sun is up  
and begins to shine.

Be near her as she scatters corn  
over the clean earth  
for her flock of chickens  
to feed on as they  
come from their perch.

Stay with her as she  
folds her arms around  
her feed pail and  
watches the sun send  
sparkling rays  
through the trees.  
As she leans against  
the old rail fence and  
marvels at the swaying leaves.

Lord, lead her as she goes  
back to her humble abode  
to eat her morsel of bread.  
Console her as she makes her bed  
and tenderly strokes the spread,  
remembering just a year ago,  
that's where her mate lay dead.

Lord, hold her close as she  
comes out to sit a while  
on her small porch,  
watching as neighbors pass, smiling.  
With a tear-dimmed eye, she  
waves to them.  
Dear God, please stay close by,  
she's a precious being.  
Lord, she's my mother.

—Velma Windham  
Taylorsville



## Morning awakening

I waked this morning to music.  
'Twas a bird in the old oak tree.  
His song in the early dawn hours  
Was sent specially to minister to me.  
I had gone to bed in the darkness,  
Feeling blue and oh so alone,  
Never dreaming that daybreak would  
bring me  
Such peace through a bird's sweet  
song.  
God sees to the needs of his children.  
Some needs are simple 'tis true.  
Mine was the need of music  
That came to me out of the blue.  
It was one of those little things  
That gave me the greatest lift,  
The lilting song from a tiny bird,  
A sweet, yet simple gift.  
Now I'm ready to face this new day;  
I've heard God speak through a song.  
From the throat of a wee mocking  
bird  
He let me know that I'm not alone.

—Janice M. Doggett  
Quitman

## Heirloom

My mother-in-law's fingers worked to and fro  
On what soon would become a family heirloom.  
Swiftly she worked with needle and thread  
On embroidery held taut within a loom.

From where I sat, I only could see  
Threads in colors of orange and red,  
Woven altogether without any form.  
A family heirloom? All I saw was a mass of thread!

To my surprise, atop the mass of colored thread,  
A picture formed within the loom.  
Each embroidered piece will soon fit together  
To make a beautiful quilt . . . a family heirloom.

If Jesus Christ is made the Master of our lives,  
We'll soon see why he uses joys, sorrows, and trials  
As threads to weave the form in his great loom.  
To make each child an heir . . . an heir to eternal life . . .

Our greatest heirloom!

—Barbara Jones, Soso  
(In honor of Myrtis Jones)

## The awakening of Spring

The back yard is aflame with beauty  
In many shades of red,  
As if one large picture  
Of a beautiful bouquet  
Framed in lovely greens.

By the drive is a jewel rare  
For friends to admire —  
A gentle sprawling red rose  
That's claimed the wall its own,  
A more beautiful rose I've yet to see.

The tree by the front window  
Isn't just a peach tree,  
It's covered from top to bottom  
With pink flowers so elegant  
That passersby pause and hold their breath.

The two dogwoods that arch the walk  
Try to outdo each other,  
As in a beauty pageant  
Wearing snowy white robes —  
The judges are still counting petals.

The azaleas must have had  
Sweet dreams before the dawn  
To have blooms so brilliant  
So fluffy and large as these,  
And they even entwine the branches.

And now for the grand finale:  
Birds singing their throats out,  
Especially the mocking birds,  
They soar toward the blue sky  
And waltz from tree to tree.

The marvel of such splendor is that  
God has touched each tiny petal  
And given every bird a song to sing  
And he's touched my heart too  
In the awakening of spring.

—Ruby Singley  
Columbia

# THE VILLAGE VIEW

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### MEMORIALS

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APRIL 8

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Eupora  
Waymon Heath  
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Mr. & Mrs. Bob Moody  
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Janeiro L. Cranage  
Dr. Chester Lake  
Mrs. Betty E. Griffin  
Mary Pat Langford  
Doc & Fredean McNemar &  
Missy  
Mrs. Dee Langston  
Mr. William Wallace Allred  
Earnestine Leggett  
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Mr. Charles (Happy) Leggett  
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Merle Jean Little  
Ms. Robbie Bush  
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Mrs. Alice Martin  
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Curtis & Mary Woods  
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Joseph McWilliams  
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Dr. & Mrs. Kermit  
McGregor, Lisa & Dale  
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Mrs. Germaine P. Sykes  
Mrs. R. L. Moore, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. George F. Pettry  
Randy Moore  
Mrs. Joe Lee McWilliams  
Joseph McWilliams  
Mrs. Herod  
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Doreas S.S. Class, Meridian  
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Avery Peeler  
Mrs. Lorena B. Peeler

Mrs. Clayton E. Bain  
Mr. W. E. Barbee  
Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Staten  
C. T. Switzer, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Blakenship  
Kaye Tapley  
Mrs. Carolyn E. Bracken  
Mrs. Mae Teddie  
Mr. & Mrs. Quentin Rives  
Mr. Rex Thompson  
Mrs. Thomas Fite Paine  
Mrs. Lucy D. Thompson  
Dr. & Mrs. James H. Brewer  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray E. Duncan  
Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Roebuck  
Leamon & Gail Street  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dew  
Dr. & Mrs. Eugene I. Farr  
Mrs. Leo Thornton  
Mrs. Marvis Bryant Family  
Mr. Steward Tranum  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice  
Jerry "Jay" Otis Tucker, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Dovie Hamilton  
Simon Turner  
Mr. & Mrs. George Ricks  
Mr. Richard Tuttle  
Ruth S.S. Class,  
Second Baptist Church,  
Greenville  
Betty Vickers  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Vickers  
Wilson M. Virden, Sr.  
Mrs. Charles O. Kynerd  
TEL S.S. Class, Rolling Fork  
Ms. Deborah Truesdale  
Mrs. Mary V. Walsh  
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Albritton,  
Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Bishop  
Friends at Forest BC, Forest  
Mr. Earl Ward  
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton  
Lawrence  
Mrs. Sue Ward  
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton  
Lawrence  
Mrs. Effie M. Watson  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Harding Jr.  
Mrs. Nannie Whitten  
Mrs. Marie Weatherby  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Harmount  
Myrtle H. Welch  
Miss Beatrice Brownlee  
Don & Dudley Westbrook  
Carolyn & Reese Snell  
Mrs. William S. Darsey, Sr.  
Minnie P. White  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Belt  
Mr. Edward Williams  
Mrs. Rachel Chipley  
Mrs. Williams  
William & Eddie Lou  
Peacock  
Mrs. Gloria Williams  
Elton & Mildred Rogers &  
Kellie  
General W. P. Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Quentin Rives  
Mrs. Mary Winham  
The Tommy Hancock Family  
Hess Worsham  
Mr. & Mrs. Sanford  
McNemar, & Daughter  
Mrs. Gertrude Worthy  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew J.  
Churchwell  
Edd Wright  
Ms. Clarice Daughtrey  
Guy Yarber  
Piney Grove BC, Booneville  
Emmitt Young  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bennett

Mrs. Grace Clark  
Mrs. Josie Ritchie  
Kathryn Hargrove  
The Serenity Sunday School,  
FBC, Greenwood  
Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Haynes  
W. H. Haynes  
Mr. Bill Hibun  
Bobby & Barbara Gann  
Mr. & Mrs. Lauren Matthews  
Mr. & Mrs. Elbert Guynes  
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Nash  
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Hays  
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Phillips  
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Guest

**MEMORIALS**

Agnes Rainey's Daughter &  
Sister  
Claudine Davis  
Sue Reynolds  
Mrs. Gladys Aldridge  
Mrs. Fern M. Lyter  
Mrs. Pearl Aldridge  
Mrs. Allene Collins

### NEWS BULLETIN FOR ALL MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

## MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING REQUEST

MAY 10, 1987

FROM

## THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

The India Nunnery Campus, Jackson

The New Albany Group Home, New Albany

The Farrow Manor Campus, Independence

Reedy Acres, Water Valley

Dickerson Place, Brookhaven

Deanash, Bond

And

(Village Foster Homes)

## WHY MAY 10?

Because Mother's Day is the convention's suggested date for The Baptist Children's Village's DIRECT appeal to the churches for an offering

## HOW WELL HAVE WE DONE IN THE PAST?

We have reached a plateau:

1984	1985	1986
\$219,540.00	\$293,951.97	\$281,552.50

## OUR ADOPTED MOTHER'S DAY GOAL

\$300,000.00

## OUR NEEDS ARE THE GREATEST EVER

because we minister to over  
600 different  
boys and girls each calendar year

## OUR TOTAL ADOPTED BUDGET GOAL

for fiscal year 7-1-86 — 6-30-87 is

\$1,975,000.00

(In excess of \$5,400 daily)

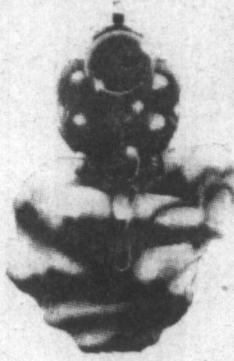
OFFERING ENVELOPES WERE MAILED IN  
JACKSON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 TO ALL SUN-  
DAY SCHOOL DIRECTORS AND PASTORS.

*The*  
**Baptist Children's Village**

P. O. Box 11308  
Jackson, Mississippi 39213  
601-922-2242

Accredited by  
National Association of Homes for Children  
Licensed by State of Mississippi

PAUL N. NUNNERY  
Executive Director



## Intensive care

*Drugs are just as deadly  
as a loaded gun.  
Don't take chances  
with your life*

## New way and new life

An excerpt from a letter recently received:

"I am a miracle of the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. I am also a recovered alcoholic. If you notice, I didn't say recovering but I used the past tense of the word and said 'recovered'."

Reply:

Praise the Lord! You have given your testimony to faith in Jesus Christ and to the change God has brought to your life. Truly, God does what man cannot do. The salvation experience is incomparable to anything in the world. This certainly is taught in the Bible. We know through personal experience that we are saved persons.

As emphatically as Paul stated his teachings on salvation, he maintained the necessity of the Christian walk, that day by day practical expression of faith. Paul devoted the second half of his letter to the Ephesians to exhortations about the manner of living the Christian life. These statements were made for the simple reason that Paul believed people need special encouragement in living in the midst of a pagan world. They cannot settle in the shadow of their glorious experience. They must live effectively as "light in the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8).

Paul never denied their humanity, insisting on the need of living a new

life, not according to their former manner of living (Ephesians 5:17-18). More power to you and bless you, if you are living the way prescribed by the apostle.

From your own experience with alcohol, of course, you are aware of its effects. As the scripture says, "Wine is a mocker." Therefore, its use may never be treated lightly. In the hospital, for example, diseases are approached variously with chemotherapy or radiation, and there is hope for remission. Oftentimes, acceptance of illness is very important to a person's health and happiness.

Regardless of diagnosis, I have had the privilege of seeing some of the finest Christians triumph in the face of unfortunate conditions. Also, I have witnessed the radiance of spiritual renewal in persons with alcohol and drug problems. They continue to live with courage and serenity.

Questions and comments addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and are handled in consultation with the staff of the Chemical Dependency Center. Letters should be sent to:

Intensive Care  
Baptist Record  
Box 530  
Jackson, Miss. 39205



**Words of Life**

The Bible in his own language meant life to 80-year-old Catalino Queva (right), one of the first converts in Cajamarca, Peru. Here he reads the scripture with lay pastor Rosario Espilco. Southern Baptists produce and distribute Christian literature throughout the 110 nations in which they maintain missionaries. (FMB) PHOTO BY Warren Johnson

# Baptist Record

## Ministry among Contras steeped in controversy

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — As Contra commanders gather in Honduran jungles plotting military strategy, a young Texas Baptist preacher walks among them, handing New Testaments to each rebel leader.

Since January of 1986, Ruben Guerrero of Mesquite has been evangelist to UNO-FDN, of Unidad Nicaraguense Opositora-Fuerza Democratica Nicaraguense, an opposition group seeking to oust the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Guerrero, the former pastor of Primera Baptist Mission in Tatum, Texas, and Primera Baptist Mission in Longview, now heads the independent Faith and Freedom Ministry. Promising "reconciliation through evangelism," the organization's stated goal is "to wage a spiritual campaign through faith to reach and subdue the nation of Nicaragua and to establish righteousness through the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"We at the Foreign Mission Board have many pressures upon us to adopt a stance favorable either to the Sandinistas or the Contras," said Don Kammerdiener, FMB vice president for the Americas. "We have adopted the sometimes lonely, sometimes exposed, position of not being identified with any political party. We want to be there for the long haul, and we want to be accessible to work in any political environment."

Guerrero, a graduate of Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio, and East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, offered a brief testimony at the recent Texas Baptist Hispanic Convocation of the Laity. The meeting was sponsored by Varones Bautistas, the Hispanic fellowship of Texas Baptist Men.

"The message I'm taking to Nicaragua, Honduras, and all of Central America is that the answer is not bombs and bullets," he said. "The answer is Jesus Christ."

Guerrero's involvement with the Contras began in mid-1985 at the request of evangelist William J. Murray, son of atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair. "I had preached in Cuba in 1984, and then the Lord allowed me to go to a Bible conference in Nicaragua in 1985. I hadn't been home long, so Nicaragua was still very much on my heart when I heard Bill Murray on a radio talk show discussing Nicaragua and telling about his ministry to the Contras," Guerrero recalled.

Murray told Guerrero of his need for an interpreter, and Guerrero agreed to help. In the summer of 1985, he made the first of several monthly trips to the Honduras-Nicaragua border, interpreting for people taking food and supplies to the Contras.

Within a few months, due to contacts made by representatives of Pat

witness and minister to anyone in the countries to which they are assigned, but we do not allow them to be engaged in clandestine operations. They are to go out as non-political people," said Kammerdiener.

Another politically volatile area of mission work is ministry among refugees. In addition to preaching to the Contra guerrillas, Guerrero has ministered to the civilian refugees on both sides of the Nicaragua-Honduras border.

"The church is not for sale . . . commitment must be exclusively to Jesus Christ."

In January of 1986, he was contacted by Carlos Icaza, attorney general of UNO-FDN. He was invited to preach and distribute Bibles to the Contra troops and to function as their resident evangelist. Since then, he has made monthly trips from Texas to Central America.

"There are a lot of Contras getting saved," he said, noting he has preached to a battalion of 600 troops and seen 400 people make professions of faith in Christ. He added he has preached to as many as 2,000 of the rebels at one time.

"There are up to 20,000 soldiers who need preaching," Guerrero said.

"The Contras see me as one of them in the sense that I'm helping them, but they know I'm not one of them. They treat me as if I were an officer, but I am always in civilian clothing," said Guerrero.

Even so, outside observers still could see Guerrero as a Contra. It is a matter that concerns some Southern Baptist missionaries.

"I want to be open to what God is doing through anybody. But personally, I would not want to be involved in a ministry associated with one side or another of the political issues at stake here. To be associated with it could endanger our work," said David Harms, Southern Baptist medical missionary and pastor of Central Baptist Church in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

"The churches here are experiencing a full-blown wooing both by the political right and the political left," he said, noting he feels the wisest course for churches is to stay out of the political arena. "I believe that Jesus would not have gone to be chaplain in the Roman army of occupation, nor do I think he would have been chaplain for the Essenes or someone else involved in revolution against the Romans."

"We have no formal relationship with the Contras here," said Sue Wilson, who serves along with her husband, Ralph, in Choluteca, Honduras, about 25 miles from the border. "We do not take part in the politics of another country. Our purpose here is to witness for the Lord."

"We encourage our missionaries to

witness and minister to anyone in the countries to which they are assigned, but we do not allow them to be engaged in clandestine operations. They are to go out as non-political people," said Kammerdiener.

Another politically volatile area of mission work is ministry among refugees. In addition to preaching to the Contra guerrillas, Guerrero has ministered to the civilian refugees on both sides of the Nicaragua-Honduras border.

"I know their medical needs, and they are real," said Harms. "But the refugee needs are being met by others. There is much greater need in the Honduran population at large. There are other areas of priority in meeting greater human need."

Harms noted a "desperate" need exists for Hispanics to serve in various missions capacities in Central America. However, not enough people are attracted to routine missions assignments: "The fact is we can't get the personnel because we can't get the press coverage." There is great human need here, but it's the Contras and the refugees who are in the limelight.

In the eyes of many Hondurans and Nicaraguans, the work is all Baptist work. And in the eyes of some Southern Baptist foreign missionaries, it is a ministry tainted by political involvement.

"The church is not for sale to the political left or the political right or even the political center," said Harms. "Our commitment must be exclusively to Jesus Christ."

Ken Camp writes for Texas Baptists.

5-07  
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TN 37203

**Baptist Record**

291  
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901 COMMERCE ST  
NASHVILLE  
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Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

May 7, 1987